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7 International

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8 The Magazine

US Holocaust
museum controversy



10 Time Out

Dancing from
the soul

INDEX

Business	10
International	16
News in Focus	13
Opinion	8
Classifieds	19
Sports	24



French President Jacques Chirac gestures to Syrian President Hafez Assad at Paris's Orly Airport yesterday, as Assad arrived in France for the first time in 22 years. (AP)

Assad begins Paris visit

By JAY BUSHNICKY
and news agencies

Syria's red, white, and black flag flew on the Champs Elysees yesterday, a sign of the red-carpet treatment France is giving President Hafez Assad in hopes his rare visit could bring a new dimension to the Middle East peace process.

Assad held two-and-a-half hours of face-to-face talks with French President Jacques Chirac last night, during which the two men touched on a range of Middle-East issues.

Assad declared that the peace process had been knocked back to square one because of the attitude of the Israeli government.

"The peace process... is now at an impasse because of the intransigent policy practiced by Israel," Assad said in a speech at a banquet held in his honor by French President Jacques Chirac. "The peace process has been reduced to zero," he added.

"The Israeli government... is insisting on a peace which ignores the causes behind the conflict, a peace which gives it both land and security and which

opens a path that does not lead to peace," he said.

"France is determined not to let the peace process collapse. This would lead to a very dangerous situation... The current position is close to a total impasse," Chirac was quoted as saying by his spokeswoman, Catherine Colonna.

Chirac urged Assad to back a recent Franco-Egyptian proposal for a new international conference to relaunch comprehensive peace negotiations.

"[Assad] did not refuse the idea," Colonna said.

In his first public comment about Assad's visit to France, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu rejected his demand that the negotiations with Israel must pick up from the point where they left off two years ago.

"To make the process of achieving peace continue," Netanyahu said, "he should not put an obstacle in our way. I am convinced that Syria wants peace just as we do."

Israeli officials monitoring Assad's visit pointed out that he is accompanied by a relatively

large number of Syrian business executives, suggesting that Syria's economic relationship with France is high on his agenda.

The high-level welcome was a sign of French hopes that Assad's visit will pay off with improved ties and trade and, more importantly, with new impetus to the blocked peace process. But the two-day state visit - Assad's first in 22 years - was also cause for controversy.

Families of Holocaust victims protested Assad's silence on the whereabouts of Nazi war criminal Alois Brunner, said to be hiding in Syria; the Committee for a Free Lebanon was demonstrating against Syrian occupation of Lebanon; a human rights group demanded Syria free political prisoners.

Groups representing families of Holocaust victims demonstrated outside the Syrian embassy in Paris last night, angered by Assad's failure to respond to French queries about the alleged presence in Syria of Brunner, 87, blamed for the deaths of 130,000 Jews from Germany, Austria, France, and Greece.

Manbar gets 16 years

Yanai in taped conversation: Bazak told me PM will say Manbar not arrested under Rabin because of Labor links

By DAN IZENBERG,
JAY BUSHNICKY,
MICHAEL YUDELMAN,
and GIL HOFFMAN

The Tel Aviv District Court yesterday unanimously sentenced Nahum Manbar to 16 years in prison for aiding and abetting the enemy and transferring material and knowhow to the enemy with the intention of harming state security.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu welcomed the sentence, strongly denying a report that he had said a day earlier that

spokesman, Shai Bazak, told her that if Manbar is convicted, the prime minister would tell reporters Manbar had not been arrested in Rabin's days because he had supported Rabin.

"Shai told me if Nahum Manbar will be found guilty, we will tell the journalists that he was not arrested in Rabin's time because he was Rabin's sponsor," the recording said.

Bazak and Yanai both denied the report. Yanai told Israel Radio the conversation took place out of her desire to lift Francine Manbar's spirits and accused Zichroni of leaking the tape to the press.

The police will begin a preliminary investigation into allegations of obstruction of justice and undue influence on judicial procedures in the Manbar trial, the Justice Ministry announced last night. The decision was made by Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel.

The police will look into "subjects included in published accounts, the Manbar petition, and additional material," according to a ministry statement.

Justice Ministry officials have made it clear that the investigation will include not only the allegations leveled by Manbar's attorney, Amnon Zichroni, against Tel

Aviv District Court Judge Amnon Strashnov, who presided over Manbar's trial, but also the conduct of Zichroni and members of his staff during the trial.

In a High Court petition filed on Monday, Zichroni accused Strashnov of maintaining a close relationship with Yanai, a lawyer who had previously apprenticed under Strashnov and whom he had hired to join the Manbar defense team. He said the two talked to each other frequently without his knowledge and rou-

tinely discussed the case. Zichroni also charged that Strashnov had discussed the case with Netanyahu.

Strashnov denied the accusations at a hearing Wednesday when Zichroni asked him to disqualify himself from the case.

Yanai charged that Zichroni knew of her friendship with Strashnov and had hired her for the sole purpose of exploiting their relationship to benefit his client.

See MANBAR, Page 12

Only the end of the beginning

Yesterday's sentencing of Nahum Manbar to 16 years in prison ends only the first chapter in what has become much more than an important criminal case.

The judges, Amnon Strashnov, Shelly Timen and Ze'ev Hammer, made a point of reaching a unanimous verdict.

If a separate opinion had been issued by Strashnov, there could have been speculation

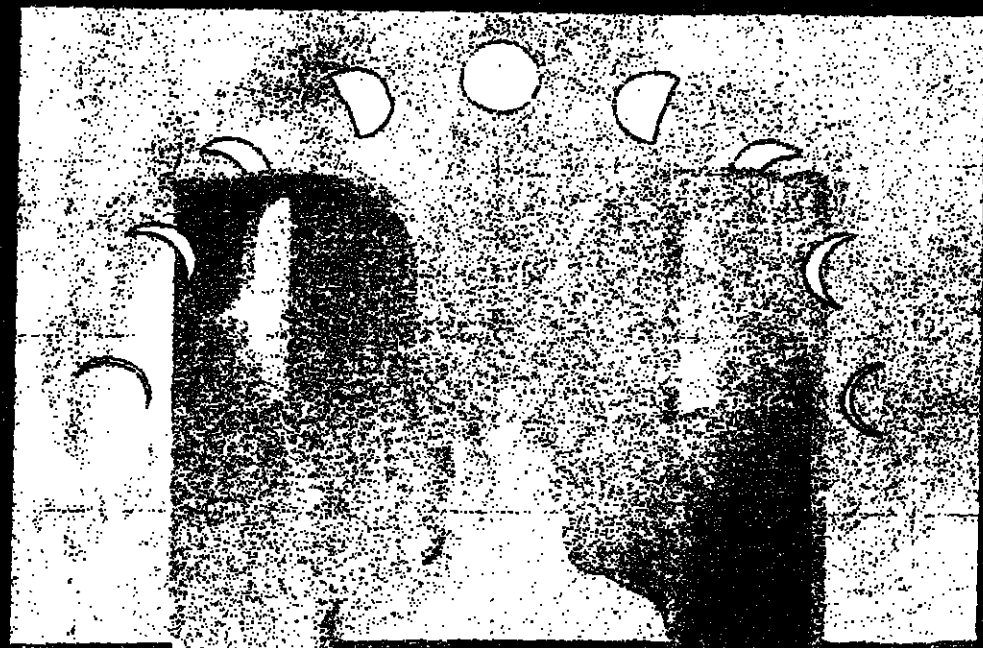
ANALYSIS

that what has become known as the Strashnov Affair - Manbar attorney Amnon Zichroni's allegations of judicial misconduct by Strashnov - may have influenced his decision.

Manbar's sentence of 16 years is only 80% of the maximum sentence possible for the crimes he committed.

See END, Page 2

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Mother recovers switched newborn

By AMY KLEIN and JUDY SEGEL

A newborn baby with a genetic defect was deliberately switched with a healthy baby, Hadassah University Hospital on Jerusalem's Mt. Scopus said, in a complaint filed with police yesterday. The baby boys were placed in each other's bassinets without the wrist and foot name tags that identify newborns.

Both infants were returned to their bassinets with the proper name tags after one of the mothers identified her child.

A hospital spokeswoman said that maternity ward nurse Yehudit Kedem noticed that one baby's

name tags were missing when she began her evening shift on Wednesday.

Kedem brought the woman indicated on the bassinet as the baby's mother, who tried to nurse him and then said that he was not hers.

A doctor was called who confirmed that, according to the baby's physical attributes, it had been swapped with the baby in the adjacent bassinet. The mothers of the two infants share a hospital

room. Kedem said that, when the families were notified of the incident, the father of the baby with the defect went over to a garbage can and pulled out the missing tags. The father said he was simply reexamining how the switch might have occurred, and he searched in the garbage can and found the tags.

See BABY, Page 5

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Tel Aviv	7:20 p.m.	8:29 p.m.
Haifa	7:20 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
Beer Sheva	7:23 p.m.	8:20 p.m.
Eilat	7:20 p.m.	8:23 p.m.



NEWS

in brief

Sharon leaves for China

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon left last night for a visit to China and Mongolia. In both countries Sharon will discuss advancing economic ties, particularly in infrastructure and industry projects.

David Harris

One killed, two hurt in road accident

A man was killed and two people were injured, one seriously, in an accident involving three vehicles on the road between Ein Gedi and Masada.

Itim

'Post', 'Report' deal completed

The Jerusalem Post and The Jerusalem Report yesterday formally completed a partnership agreement under which the Post has acquired a 49 percent stake in the Report.

The two publications will maintain separate editorial identities, but will merge their business operations for the mutual benefit of both publications.

Hirsh Goodman yesterday assumed his duties as vice chairman of The Jerusalem Post and editorial director of both titles.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Israel-PA talks soon

By JAY BUSHINSKY, STEVE RODAN, and MOHAMMED NABE

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's projected round of talks with a Palestinian leader is expected to take place tomorrow night or Sunday, depending on the amount of time Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat needs to complete preliminary deliberations on the talk's content.

Arafat is to convene the Palestinian leadership over the weekend to discuss the US proposal for them to begin direct talks with Israel.

The PA still has not decided whether Mordechai's interlocutor would be its deputy leader, Mahmoud Abbas, or Arafat. PA officials expected that Arafat would not agree to participate and would send Abbas.

In the meantime, the flap that erupted within the security cabinet over the topics Mordechai was authorized to discuss was resolved when the initial restrictions imposed at the behest of National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon were removed.

A senior government source had specified the two topics as formal annulment of the Palestinian National Covenant's

anti-Israel articles by the Palestinian National Council and the status of Area D - the additional 3 percent of the West Bank from which the IDF may be withdrawn, but to which it would have unfettered access to maintain security. The Palestinians would be barred from entering this area.

"There is no argument between Yitzhak Mordechai and me," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. "Every decision will be made by both of us working together. We agree on the issues and on which issues will be discussed."

However, unlike the highly placed source, Netanyahu stopped short of specifying Mordechai's agenda.

Hassan Asfour, head of the PA negotiating department, stressed yesterday that the PA has not made a decision on direct talks with Israel. But like other PA officials he did not express opposition to this.

"It's simply too early," he said, pointing out that Arafat had just returned from his trip to China and Pakistan.

Asfour said any direct talks between the PA and Israel would be limited to a discussion on the US plan for implementation of the Oslo accords.

Peres accuses Likud of blood libel

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Labor Party leaders yesterday furiously rejected the statement, attributed to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, that the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and former prime minister Shimon Peres had blocked a probe into Nahum Manbar's affairs because he had made contributions to Labor.

Netanyahu hastened to deny the allegation, first published in *Ha'aretz* yesterday. But political sources, as well as people who attended the prime minister's briefing to reporters on Wednesday, confirmed Netanyahu had indeed said this.

"Blood libel," MK Shimon Peres said yesterday, in response to the story.

Peres said he telephoned Netanyahu as soon as he saw the headline, and the prime minister denied it.

"*Ha'aretz* must investigate thoroughly how such an awful, malicious headline was written, and reveal the source of the libel," Peres demanded.

The prime minister's spokesman, Shai Bazak, denied the story, saying Netanyahu had no complaint of Peres's or Rabin's handling of the Manbar investigation.

Ha'aretz news editor Aluf Ben said "we stand by our story."

Peres told Israel Radio he and Rabin had acted to speed up the inquiry into the allegations against Manbar but there was not enough evidence to charge him.

"The prime minister has no standing in this criminal procedure. We knew of the investigation but were not at liberty to speak."

"There were persons we tried to warn, to keep away from Manbar. But to suggest that any prime minister - especially the late Yitzhak, or myself - would stop an espionage probe?" Peres said.

Prosecutor Dvora Chen said yesterday that Rabin had ordered an inquiry into Manbar's

activities but there was not enough evidence to press charges against him at the time.

MK Uzi Baran said Manbar contributed to Maccabi Jerusalem as well as to Hapoel, "so was no more connected to Labor than to the Likud."

Baran said in the mid-90s Rabin's bureau chief Eitan Haber warned him there was a probe into Manbar's affairs.

"I have no doubt Rabin and Peres would have arrested Manbar immediately if there was any evidence to do so. Manbar's arrest was nothing to do with Netanyahu, and he does not deserve the credit he's trying to take for it," Baran said.

Labor MKs blast Zvilli

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Labor MK Nissim Zvilli yesterday came under fire from his colleagues in the party's executive for presenting the parliamentary question suggesting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had maintained contact with Judge Amnon Strashnov during Nahum Manbar's trial.

The MKs criticized Zvilli for providing the prime minister and the Likud with an excuse to attack Labor and turn the Manbar case into a political one.

"Zvilli's bringing up the matter was a mistake, and enabled that great saint, Netanyahu, to launch an attack against us," MK Uzi Baran said.

MK Shlomo Ben-Ami said Zvilli was wrong to bring the allegations against Netanyahu, because it enabled the prime minister to distract attention from destroying the peace process. "In this affair Netanyahu may get off clean, but he shouldn't be allowed to get away with his real shortcomings, and that was Zvilli's mistake," Ben-Ami said.

However, a number of MKs said that, without Zvilli's parliamentary question, the publication ban would not have been lifted from the Strashnov Affair and no one would have known of the improper goings on behind the scenes.

They said the attorney-general, who yesterday ordered an investigation of the incident, would not have done so without Zvilli's move. The MKs pointed to an opinion poll conducted by Shvachim Panorama and broadcast on Israel Radio yesterday morning, which indicated the public supports Zvilli's move, which led to the exposure of the whole affair.

BACKGROUND

By STEVE RODAN

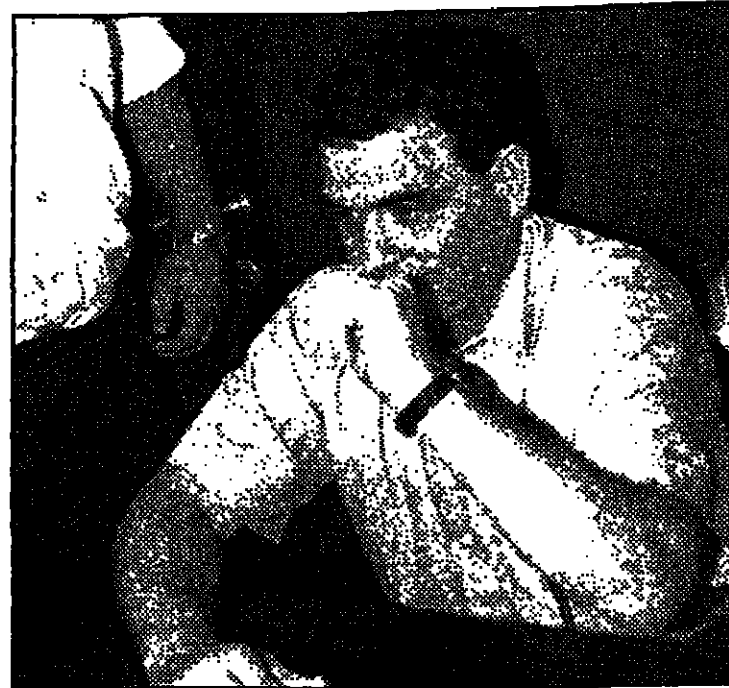
Nahum Manbar may be slippery and mendacious, as the three-judge panel that sentenced him to 16 years yesterday determined. But one thing is clear: He wasn't the only one selling military equipment to Iran.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, a host of Israeli defense contractors sold their goods to Iran. Israeli court records show Elbit tried to interest Iran in purchasing equipment that would detect chemical weapons in a \$50 million deal via Poland. Defense sources say such companies as Rabinex sold Teheran fire-protection garments. In most cases, the equipment was sold via European countries, but with the knowledge and permission of the Defense Ministry's Sibat arms export agency.

So, why was Manbar arrested and convicted? Manbar and his supporters say he is a scapegoat and his prosecution was meant to assuage US authorities, who had declared him persona non grata in 1994.

Intelligence sources familiar with the case say Manbar simply went too far. In July 1994, Manbar's two companies, Europol Holding and Mana Investment International, both based in Western Europe, were placed on a State Department list of companies that sold chemical weapons parts to rogue states in defiance of the US embargo.

US Assistant Secretary of State



Nahum Manbar awaits sentencing in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

(Brian Hestler)

Thomas McNamara said in his report that US companies are banned from doing business with the companies of Manbar and others that appear on the list. Their goods also would be kept out of the US.

At the same time, US officials were pressing Israel for Manbar's prosecution. They argued that Manbar's activities could not be overlooked if the US embargo on Iran was to be taken seriously.

For several years, intelligence sources say, Israeli officials hesitated. Part of the problem was the contradicting views of Manbar in

Israel's intelligence community. The General Security Service had been receiving information on Iran volunteered by Manbar since 1991. The GSS assured Manbar that he would not be prosecuted for dealing with Iran.

During the Manbar trial, a GSS agent, identified as A, testified that he and his colleagues had promised to protect Manbar.

"It was clear to the establishment that Nahum had information on interesting subjects, such as the heart of Iran's biological and chemical establishment," A testified. "It wasn't clear what his part

was in this array." The sources said Manbar's relations with the GSS were so cozy that he was seen at least once dining with then-GSS chief Ya'acov Perry.

But Manbar's dealings with Iran were opposed by the Mossad and its then-chief Shabtai Shavit. Shavit argued that Manbar was hurting the US's dual containment policy and Israeli efforts to try to stop Iran's military programs. He said Manbar's offer of chemical weapons equipment to Iran was not worth the intelligence he might be receiving from Teheran.

"Shavit's message was that this was not the way to get intelligence," an intelligence source said.

By early 1993, then-prime minister Yitzhak Rabin was convinced that the Israeli weapons dalliance with Iran had to stop. What persuaded him were reports from the IDF that Hizbullah was firing mortars, supplied to Iran

over the previous few years from the Yoke'am-based contractor Soltam, at Israeli troops in Lebanon. Rabin ordered an immediate halt to defense sales to Iran.

Civilian exports, however, continued to arrive in Iran and industry sources say current trade, largely done through European companies, is estimated at close to \$100 million annually.

Manbar was warned to stop selling equipment to Iran. But, as his associates said, he still had unfinished business to complete. It took until 1994 for Manbar to end his relationship with Teheran.

As Manbar's older brother, Zvi, recalls, Nahum told him: "If I don't keep my agreement with these people I could get killed."

Winning numbers

In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 262773 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 863911 won the cash.

Tickets ending in 07590, 512081, 887021, 221112, 829296, 226765 and 832493 won NIS 5,000.

Tickets ending in 55781, 91146, 07640, 15870, 42278, 39578, 09897, 36486, 87590, 06269, 65211, 61653, 26370, 70717, 28021, 49861, 92138, 48764 and 50413 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 717, 757, 998 and 694 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 21, 78, 45, 85 won NIS 30.

Tickets ending in 10 and 87 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 5 and 0 won NIS 10.

END

Continued from Page 1

The main reason for not giving Manbar the maximum remains, for now, a mystery, as it relates to matters which were detailed in a classified part of the ruling and argued in closed court only.

It has been previously published, however, that one of Manbar's lines of defense was that many other Israelis traded with Iran with the full knowledge of the Israeli government, and it appears that the judges gave

some weight to those claims. The sentencing is not the end of the Manbar's trial, nor is it the end of the Strashnov Affair.

First, Manbar will appeal, and the appeal will again raise all the charges that Zichroni made in his now-famous petition.

It should be noted that the Supreme Court, which refused to hear these arguments yesterday, did not dismiss their substance. Court President Aharon Barak's decision specifically authorized raising these matters again as part of the appeal.

There is also the issue of a

police investigation.

Under pressure from the High Court of Justice earlier this week, the Attorney-General's Office had to state that it would order the police to make at least an initial effort to investigate Zichroni's allegations.

Last night the police refrained from using the formal term "investigation," announcing instead it would conduct an "examination."

Hillel Sommer is a lecturer at the Radzyner Law School, Interdisciplinary Center Herdya.

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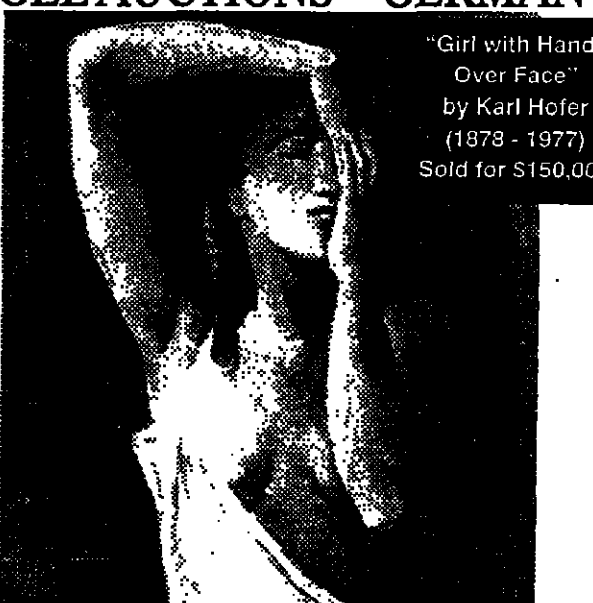
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Manbar's Protectors LABORING under Distorted Values

Ruth Matar discusses with Dennis Eisenberg, Investigative Journalist: Did Labor launch a political attack on Netanyahu, as a cover-up for their leaders' behavior towards Manbar? Labor's other policies? Did "the Party" and some of its members receive substantial financial support from this "Sugar Daddy" in various electoral campaigns?


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14 April 1998

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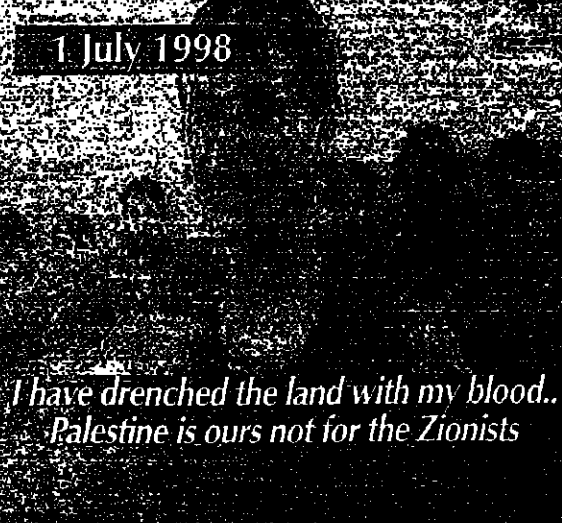
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2 July 1998

*We are ready with our guns
- We are ready with our guns*



1 July 1998

*I have drenched the land with my blood.
Palestine is ours not for the Zionists*

Official Palestinian Authority T.V.

- [illegible]

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Mordechai tells Russian intelligence chief:

'Stop aiding Iran missile program'

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN
and news agencies

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai demanded yesterday from the visiting Russian intelligence chief that Moscow must "immediately and unequivocally stop" Russian aid to Iran's surface-to-surface missile development projects.

The meeting took place shortly before the Clinton administration announced in Washington that it would penalize nine Russian enterprises found to have sold sensitive technology to Iran.

This move came following intensive Israeli efforts to crack down on Russia's technology transfers to Iran.

At their meeting in Tel Aviv, Mordechai told Lt.-Gen. Nikolai Kovalyov, director of the Federal Security Service, that not only Israel but other countries in the region are highly concerned with the development of non-conventional weapons and long-range ground-to-ground missiles in Iran.

According to defense officials, Mordechai wants to have "open and substantive ties" with Russia. But he also hinted that this was contingent on more Russian efforts to prevent the aid from getting to Iran.

Israel has repeatedly stressed to Russian officials that Moscow must not only prevent official aid from reaching the Iranians, but halt

the aid Tehran is receiving from private companies in Russia.

Israel has given the Russians and the Americans the names of at least nine companies that are said to be actively involved in helping Iran develop nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

Russia has said that the nuclear power plant it is building in Iran will only be used for civilian purposes, but Israel is concerned it will help Iran develop nuclear weapons.

Mordechai told Kovalyov that Israel has yet to see any "fruits" from Russia's moves against the aid to Iran.

Substantive ties "would naturally be easier if Russian efforts to block aid to Iran would bear fruit," a Defense Ministry statement said.

Kovalyov, who is leading a small delegation here, is expected to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Trade and Industry Minister Natan Sharansky.

In Washington, the White House applauded the Russian government for establishing an investigative commission that uncovered the illicit exports. The commission threatened administrative and even criminal charges against the enterprises, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported in Moscow.

The enterprises are the INOR scientific center, the Graft and Polyus research institutes, the Tikhomirov instrument-making research institute, the Glavkosmos organization, the Komintern plant in



Russian intelligence chief Lt.-Gen. Nikolai Kovalyov (left) shakes hands with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai before their meeting in Tel Aviv yesterday.

Novosibirsk, the MOSO company, the Baltic State Technical University and Europalace 2000. Most of these are private firms, but some are associated with the Russian government.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said that the US would suspend any US government program or assistance to the enterprises and impose trade restrictions.

"We believe that those steps

indicate the seriousness with which the Russian Federation has taken the expression of concern we've made on certain technology transfers," McCurry was quoted as saying.

US pressing Lebanon on Arad

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - Washington has renewed its demand of Lebanon to reveal the fate of Ron Arad, the IAF navigator who has been missing since he was captured by Shi'ite militiamen after bailing out of his stricken plane over south Lebanon in 1986.

The London-based Palestinian daily *Al-Quds al-Arabi* reported that Arad was captured by Amal, the mainstream Shi'ite movement in south Lebanon, but was subsequently transferred to Hizbullah when his captor, Abu Ali Dirani, founded the "Believing Resistance" splinter group and joined forces with the pro-Iranian

extremists.

Dirani himself was later kidnapped by Israel.

The most recent information indicated that Arad had received medical treatment in Lebanon. But there have been other conflicting reports, one of which suggested that Arad is no longer in Lebanon, another that he had been killed.

Arad's fate is likely to be discussed in talks in Paris this week during the state visit by Syrian President Hafez Assad, who exercises considerable influence over both Amal and Hizbullah.

French officials are now reported to be working on an exchange which will focus on Arad's fate.

SLA officer killed in zone

By DAVID RUDGE

A South Lebanese Army officer was killed during long-range mortar and anti-tank missile attacks on a number of SLA positions in the western sector of the security zone early yesterday morning.

Reports from the zone said the 44-year-old officer, the father of nine children, was a deputy company commander in the region.

He was killed when mortars and missiles scored direct hits on the Shalif al-Nimel outpost, not far from Hadatha village. The same position was partially overrun by Hizbullah gunmen during a frontal

assault on the post two weeks ago.

There was no ground attack yesterday, however, with Hizbullah firing at the position and others in the area from long range.

The mortar attacks sparked heavy return fire by IDF and SLA gunners at Hizbullah positions north of the zone. Reports from Lebanon said the exchanges lasted for over an hour.

Later in the morning, IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets in the Jabal Soud area in the northern eastern edge of the security zone. The IDF Spokesman said pilots reported hitting the targets and all the planes returned safely.

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'Turkish Daily News' reports:

Turkish F-16 squadron uses IAF base to practice evading S-300 missiles

By ABIEH O'SULLIVAN

Turkish defense sources say Turkish jets have not been training in Israel to destroy Russian-made anti-aircraft missiles, but how to evade them, according to a report in *The Turkish Daily News*.

The daily said a squadron of Turkish F-16s was in Israel last month to receive training on testing grounds jointly run by the Israeli Air Force and missile manufacturer Rafael, the

Armaments Development Authority. Both IAF and Rafael have put together an "Air Combat Maneuvering Instrumentation Range" located in the Negev, the daily said.

Israel Radio also carried the report, adding that Israel was providing Turkey with technical advice on dealing with anti-aircraft missiles.

The range includes various types of anti-aircraft systems which Israel has acquired to simulate enemy tactics to shoot

down aircraft, the *Daily News* reported. The report has not only met with criticism in Turkey, but also in Greece. Greek government spokesman Dimitri Reppas said on Monday that, if the report was true, it would undermine peace and stability efforts in the region.

Earlier reports, which were denied by Israel, said that Turkish military jets were trained by Israel to destroy S-300 missiles. These reports coincided with the latest Greek

Cypriot attempts to purchase S-300s from Russia and deploy them on the island. Although the deployment was postponed until November, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Greek Cypriot leader Glafkos Clerides confirmed on Monday in Moscow that the deployment would go ahead as planned, the *Daily News* reported.

Although both Israel and Turkey have many times stated that their military cooperation is not an alliance against another

country, Turkey's military cooperation with Israel has already been criticized several times by the region's Arab countries.

Both Turkey and Israel benefit from the reciprocal training and technical assistance launched with the signing of a bilateral military training and cooperation agreement in February 1996. Every month, a group of Israeli warplanes arrives in Turkey to enjoy the vast airspace above the plains of Konya in central Anatolia, the daily said.

Shas expected to vote against new health fees

By LIAT COLLINS

Shas leader Aryeh Deri reportedly said yesterday he will do everything possible to prevent the planned hike in health service payments.

Deputy Health Minister Shlomo Benizri (also Shas) told reporters he had complained to Deri that the two Shas members of the Knesset Finance Committee had abstained from Wednesday's vote on the health care payments, despite a decision by the party's MKs that they would oppose any increases.

The two abstained apparently because they did not want to vote against the government although they did not support the suggested reform.

Unless the government amends the plan in Monday's scheduled revote in the committee, however, Shas is expected to vote against the reform.

Meretz whip Haim Oron yesterday called on the Shas and Yisrael Ba'aliya MKs on the committee to oppose the government's proposal, "and not harm the public they are supposed to represent in the Knesset."

Oron also accused Health Minister Yehoshua Matza and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman of intentionally misleading the committee on the new health payments.

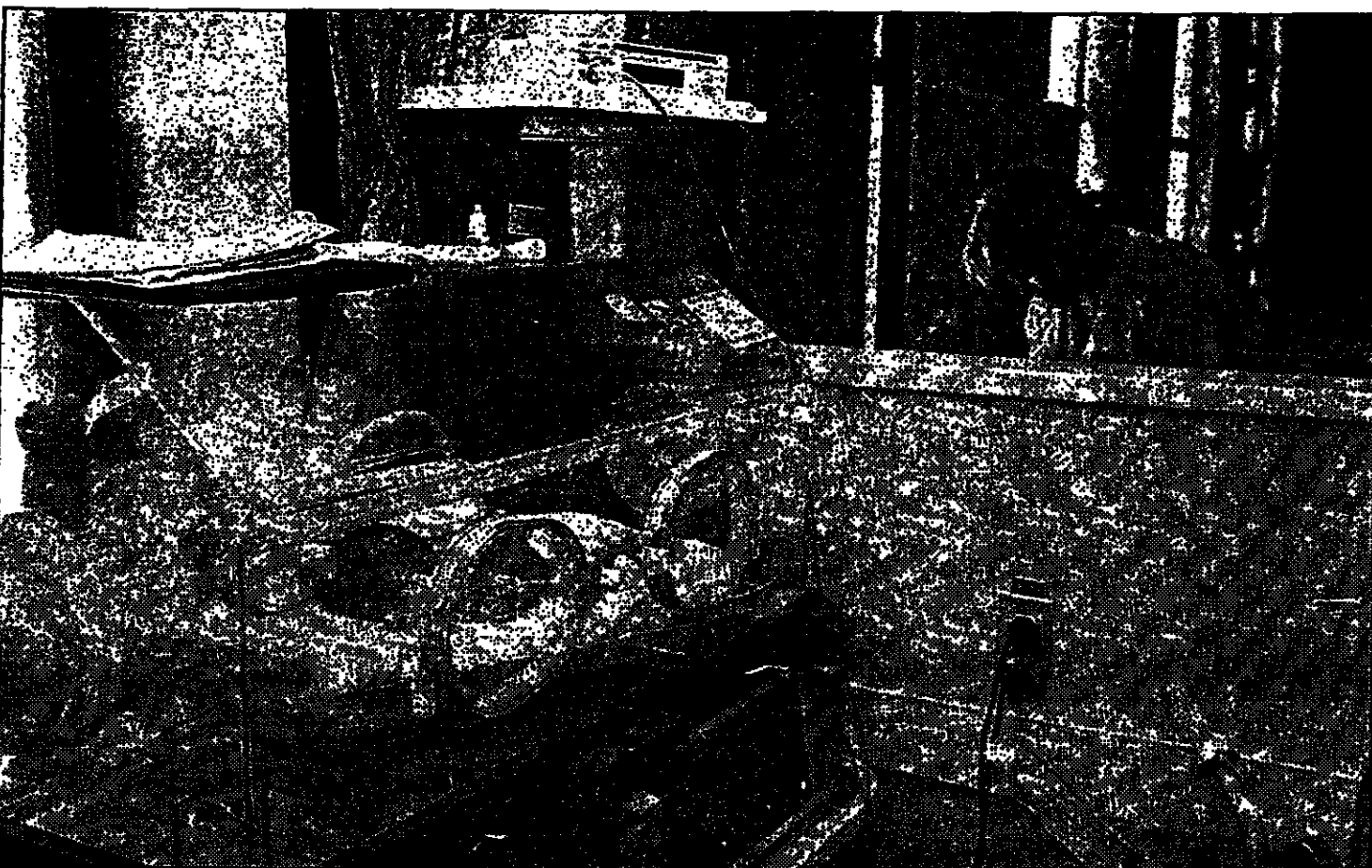
He said the government would actually collect at least NIS 880 million a year from the public, not NIS 350 million as the committee was told.

He said the figure was intentionally distorted to enable the government to reduce its part in covering the health establishment deficit by taking more out of the public's pockets.

Labor MK and former health minister Haim Ramon, who initiated the National Health Insurance Law, said the government's proposals contravene the law and cannot be enforced.

He told Israel Radio the law is based on the idea of equality and payment according to means. Since it requires health funds to treat even those who cannot pay, there could be no sanctions for those who refuse to cough up the additional fees.

Under the proposed changes, every health fund member would pay a monthly sum, to be determined by the funds, of a maximum of NIS 55 per household; families would pay a quarterly maximum of NIS 160 for visits to specialists and outpatient departments; there would be an NIS 20 payment to cover quarterly visits to general practitioners other than the patient's regular doctor; and prescription drugs would go up 30%.



A newborn baby sleeps peacefully watched by a nurse yesterday at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital on Mt. Scopus. (Flash 90)

BABY

Continued from Page 1

According to nurse Varda Bar-On, that father had aroused her suspicion the previous night by asking when the nurses changed shifts. The father said he only asked after he was notified of the switch, to prevent its recurrence.

Maternity Department director Prof. Neri Laufer said the parents had been informed of the baby's common chromosomal defect.

"It's not an external defect, and

you could say that the baby is healthy," he told reporters.

Hadassah on Mt. Scopus instituted rigorous security measures in the nursery about a year ago, requiring nurses to match the name tags and identity numbers on the wrists of all babies and their mothers before allowing them to be taken out, even for feeding.

Prof. Ariel Milwidsky, deputy director of the hospital and a physician in the obstetrics department, said yesterday that the removal of the tags on the wrists and ankles of the two babies on

Wednesday apparently occurred after they were taken by their mothers from the nursery for feeding.

"The police are investigating, and if they find that this was done intentionally, to switch or steal a baby, we are open to all suggestions on intensifying security measures even more. It's difficult to prevent intentional acts, and the financial cost is often high, but we've thought about bar-codes, magnetic cards, or bracelets that can't be cut off," Milwidsky said.

He added that nurses who work

in the neonatal unit "have in their blood to be on guard against babies being switched or kidnapped. So they are very careful."

Fathers and other relatives who want to view newborns can do so only through a glass window, and mothers may enter only after the name matching - even if the nurse recognizes them, he added. Parents are allowed into neonatal intensive care units for premature babies, but doctors and nurses are on duty round the clock, so such an incident would be near-impossible there, Milwidsky stated.

Eda Haredit official said beaten by 'secular Jews'

By AMY KLEIN

A leader of the Eda Haredit was allegedly attacked this week by three secular Jewish youths near the new Pisgat Ze'ev road in northern Jerusalem, police said.

Yehuda Meshi-Zahav, who has been called the "Eda Haredit's operations officer," said a car pulled over as he walked on Rehov Moshe Dayan late Wednesday night and three youths got out and clubbed him, then fled. Police are still searching for the youths.

Meshi-Zahav was lightly injured and was released yesterday morn-

ing from Hadassah-University Hospital on Mt. Scopus.

Police are investigating whether the alleged attack was related to the haredi demonstrations against the moving ancient graves from the construction site of Route 1 in Pisgat Ze'ev. Work resumed two weeks ago following a ruling by the Jerusalem Rabbinical Council that permitted bones found there to be reburied nearby.

Police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said he doubts Meshi-Zahav was attacked because of his and the Eda Haredit's opposition to the construction there.

Meshi-Zahav has been one of

the leading opponents to the ruling, and he has sent haredim nearly every day this week to protest against the construction.

Many say that the Eda Haredit's opposition is not based on Jewish law, but rather a fear they will lose power.

"The Eda Haredit is afraid that they won't have a say in matters now that this has been decided without them," said Rabbi Rafi Dayan, assistant to Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron.

Bakshi-Doron is to meet on Monday with the Knesset Interior Subcommittee in an attempt to resolve the confrontation between

archeology and religion in light of recent reports that the prime minister plans to replace the director of the Antiquities Authority with a religious representative.

"We intend to find halachic solutions for all these matters," said Dayan, "so there won't be a ruckus every time a new road is opened."

The Antiquities Authority, which has been doing exploratory work at the site, will begin the actual exhumation of graves on Sunday.

"We will continue to send people to demonstrate as long as we have enough forces," said Meshi-Zahav.

NEWS

in brief

Graves desecrated at Moscow cemetery

Unknown vandals desecrated 30 graves in the Jewish section of Moscow's Vostryakovo cemetery, the Interfax news agency said yesterday. A cemetery worker told police that an unidentified group of people defiled the graves on Wednesday night. Eight tombstones were damaged beyond repair.

Police have opened an investigation.

The desecration followed similar acts of vandalism two weeks ago at a Jewish cemetery maintained by the Marina Roshcha synagogue, which itself has been attacked and bombed periodically in recent years. AP

Swiss banks say they'll resume talks

Two big Swiss banks said yesterday they are ready to resume stalled talks aimed at finding an agreement over the return of Holocaust survivors' assets.

Spokesmen for Credit Suisse and the newly created United Bank of Switzerland said they would take part in negotiations with Jewish groups and lawyers representing survivors. No date has yet been set for the talks.

Talks have been stalled since Jewish leaders reacted angrily to the offer by Credit Suisse and UBS on June 19 of \$600 million to settle Holocaust survivors' claims.

The banks insisted it was their final offer. But Jewish leaders said the real value of the dormant wartime assets victims had deposited was more than \$1 billion. AP

Schools to get more computers

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Education Minister Yitzhak Levy signed an agreement with Mifal Hapayis director Ya'acov Bardugo yesterday that will increase the number of computers in the nation's schools to one for every 10 students. The Education Ministry, Mifal Hapayis and local authorities each pledged NIS 300 million to purchase a total of 60,000 computers over the next five years.

Levy said the agreement will make Israel "one of the most computerized countries in the world." Netanyahu said Israel currently is ranked ninth worldwide in the ratio of computers per person. Agreements like this, he said, will help Israel become the No. 1 country in the category.

Levy said the computers will go to poorer schools first, starting with those in development towns in the South. Gil Hoffman

Foreign workers complain about police harassment

By AMY KLEIN

Tel Aviv policemen have been harassing foreign workers and used force while arresting several of them this week, according to Kav L'Oved, an organization that protects the rights of foreign workers.

Tel Aviv police began a special operation against illegal foreign workers on Tuesday night. By Wednesday afternoon, when the operation ended, police had arrested 45 illegal workers suspected of criminal activity, a police spokesman said.

Five Africans called Kav L'Oved this week from prison to complain that police used unnecessary force when arresting them, breaking down their doors in the middle of the night, and handcuffing and dragging them to the station.

A Nigerian Embassy worker also complained that police fractured his leg when they tried to

arrest him on Tuesday.

"The way that the police are behaving towards these people violates their human rights," said Pas Ya'akov, director of Kav L'Oved. "Over the course of the week they stopped people because of the color of their skin, until they could prove they had a valid visa."

"We treat illegal foreign workers humanely, giving them food and even getting people who owe them money to pay them before they are deported from the country," said Efraim Cohen, chairman of the Foreign Workers Administration, a division of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Administration staffers accompany policemen as they arrest illegal foreign workers who are not suspected of any crime.

Cohen said that since January, some 2,500 illegal workers have been arrested, but that there are around 95,000 illegal workers still in Israel.

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Queries concerning identified missing relatives should be addressed in writing, supplying details of the missing person and his or her family connection. Letters should be mailed to The Office of the Legal Adviser, Keren Kayemeth Leisrael P.O.B. 283, Jerusalem 91002

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Jerusalem Post

Arad

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Romeo and Graca

Nelson Mandela is 80 tomorrow. If his "Happy Birthday" is played by wedding bells to the tune of "Here Comes the Bride," you read it here.

In any case, the invitation card for the president's birthday banquet is a square of paper only Johannesburg's socially dead will find themselves without this weekend. The routine official schedule for tomorrow released by the president's office says dryly: "The president turns 80. He will celebrate his birthday with his family." Old family, new family? In fact there is also some public celebration for the world's favorite national leader. Madiba, as his compatriots call him, was to party with 300 mostly disabled children in Kruger National Park yesterday, and on Sunday with 2,000 guests at a country estate.

Beyond that, a polite silence has descended over Mandela's plans for Saturday. An attempt to round up our usual sources in South African circles was met with quiet discretion. All helpfully confirmed that yes, it is the president's birthday and yes, everyone wishes him well, and yes, Mrs. Machel has been his long-time companion, and yes, you may write any speculation you wish, but it's only speculation.

Just do it

So let's speculate that President Nelson Mandela might marry Graca Machel, 52-

year-old widow of the late President Somora Machel of Mozambique, in a private family ceremony at his residence in Johannesburg tomorrow.

That would turn Sunday's birthday banquet into a Africa's society wedding of the century. Madiba and Graca already have agreed to set up a new home, their first, in Houghton, a suburb of Johannesburg.

Mandela's old friend Bishop Desmond Tutu has chided the couple for setting a bad example to youth, and urged them to "do the right thing." The finger-wagging was done partly in humor, because of the close friendship, but partly in earnest since Tutu is a church leader, too.

It already is Africa's match of the century, a romantic twilight to lives lived in the glare of the continent's turbulent modern history. Mandela was the young tribal nobleman turned freedom fighter, political prisoner, defender of apartheid, father of his nation, and world hero. Graca Machel is a lawyer and the widow of the liberator of Mozambique from Portuguese colonialism. She already was popular and influential at home before her liaison with Mandela raised her to star status, and is a well known international campaigner for children's rights.

See COLUMN ONE, Page 7

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Squabbling delays Japanese election

By EICHIRO TOKUMOTO

TOKYO (Reuters) — Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party suddenly put off by three days a vote for a new leader after a fight broke out for the post yesterday.

Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi appeared to be headed for victory until party elder Seiroku Kajiyama, who is regarded as an ally of Obuchi, threw his hat in the ring.

The news set off an immediate rally by the yen, with the dollar dropping under 140 yen and Tokyo stock prices surging.

Kajiyama, 72, a former chief cabinet minister, is regarded as the most likely of Japan's political leaders to take the drastic economic measures demanded by global markets to nurse Japan's economy back to health. He favors a quick resolution of Japan's banking woes and using measures such as tax cuts and government spending to get the economy moving.

"The news about Kajiyama definitely improved market sentiment," said Tsuyoshi Segawa, general manager at New Japan Securities Co. Ltd.

"Kajiyama is bullish for Japan. He is eager to clean up bank problems. It means a change from old-fashioned factional politics," said a city bank fund manager.

The Japanese media expected Kajiyama to formally announce his candidacy yesterday or today to replace Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto as LDP president. With a comfortable majority in the Lower House, the head of the LDP is assured of becoming prime minister.

Faced by Kajiyama's challenge and other rumblings by young reformers, LDP leaders abruptly announced an election set for next Tuesday to effectively choose a new prime minister had been postponed until July 24.

Hashimoto, prime minister since January 1996, is resigning over an

Upper House election defeat last Sunday which was regarded as a no-confidence vote in policies that have failed to drag Japan out of its worst recession since World War II.

The election on July 24 will involve all 366 LDP parliamentarians, as well as a grassroots LDP representative from each of Japan's 47 prefectures.

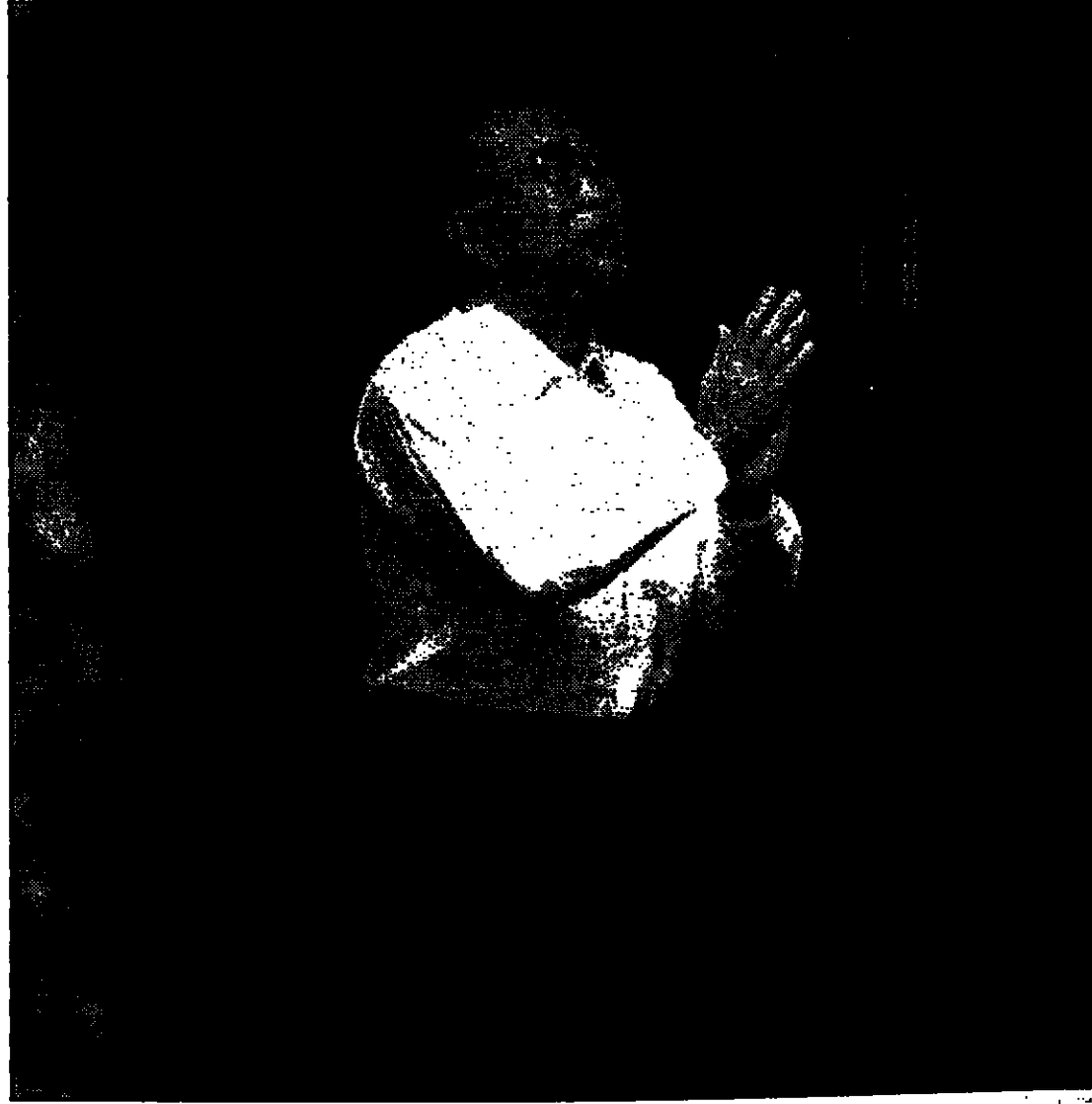
In a sign of how the tide was turning towards Kajiyama, a cabinet minister took the unusual step of saying bluntly and publicly that Kajiyama, not Obuchi, is the man Japan needed in its hour of economic need.

"Obuchi is a great man. But in order to make a breakthrough from the current situation, we need Kajiyama," Farm Minister Yoshinobu Shimamura said at LDP headquarters, where the news set off a buzz in corridors already resonating with intrigue.

Earlier in the day, Obuchi — who heads the largest faction in the LDP and who received the backing of his group on Wednesday to run for party president — delayed until at least today a news conference to announce his candidacy. His supporters had said the delay was to gather more support for him so that there would be no appearance of party in-fighting that might worry financial markets.

The first sign of the unraveling of a deal that had been worked out between Obuchi and Kajiyama, who is in the foreign minister's faction, came when former trade minister Shinji Sato walked out of the faction in protest. Under the deal, Kajiyama would have stepped aside for Obuchi, 60, and instead taken the post of finance minister.

But the lukewarm reaction of financial markets to the possibility of Obuchi as prime minister and anger among young reformers such as Sato that the decision would be made in back rooms rather than at the originally scheduled Tuesday election set off a



Japanese Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi joins his hands in prayer in front of his Tokyo home before going to work yesterday morning. Obuchi is competing for the leadership of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party with party elder Seiroku Kajiyama. (AP)

revolt that exploded yesterday.

"We want someone with leadership. The need is to restore trust in the party. If it's just another case of back-room politics, this will be terrible for us," an LDP parliament

member who supports Kajiyama said.

The Obuchi faction has about one-quarter of the parliament members. Kajiyama's decision is certain to split the bloc.

Kajiyama also has the support of many members of the LDP's third-largest faction, led by former prime minister Kiichi Miyazawa. The faction has 82 parliament members.

Wanted: An 'economic' premier

TOKYO (Reuters) — The world is waiting to see whether Japan can take the bold steps needed to cure its economic ills and whether its next prime minister will be up to that tough task.

That means other qualifications — or shortcomings — of contenders for the post are taking a back seat. "I don't think Japan's problems

are in the diplomatic sphere. They are clearly in the economic sphere," a diplomatic expert said.

"The issue for Japan right now is to get the economy going in a fiscally prudent way so it can resume its proper role in the recovery of other Asian economies."

Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi's solid diplomatic record —

ANALYSIS

he's done a credible job of helping to improve ties with Russia, China and the rest of Asia — thus may not be much help if he gains the top post.

"If there were a clear policy out there, Obuchi might be the person to carry it through," the diplomatic expert said. "But if you want innovative and decisive leadership, nobody expects it of him."

Obuchi, 60, leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's biggest faction, on Wednesday won the backing of his group as candidate to succeed Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who is stepping down because of the party's huge electoral setback. The ruling party's chief is virtually assured the premiership because of the LDP's majority in the Lower House.

Yesterday, however, party heavyweight and Obuchi faction member Seiroku Kajiyama basically threw his hat in the ring, snatching what had been expected to be a fairly smooth selection process based on old-style factional dynamics.

"Obuchi is a great man. But in order to make a breakthrough

from the current situation, we need Kajiyama," Agriculture Minister Yoshinobu Shimamura said yesterday.

Financial markets appeared to agree, with the yen gaining against the dollar on news of Kajiyama's candidacy and hopes he would be more likely to pursue bold economic steps.

Like the markets, what Asia, the United States and the rest of the world want most from Japan now are aggressive measures to rescue the economy from recession and accelerate a cleanup of its banking sector, however painful that may be in the short-term.

"We're sitting here and waiting and hoping," Bundesbank council member Hans-Juergen Koebnick said in Germany on Wednesday. "One must hope that Japan will play a strong role in international economic life; at present, it does not."

Obuchi's economic credentials have failed to impress overseas observers.

"He hasn't shown any particular understanding of the economic issues," a diplomatic source said.

Kajiyama — once the center of controversy for making an off-the-cuff slur against American blacks — gets higher marks from both markets and diplomats for his aggressive stance towards banking sector consolidation.

Kajiyama, 72, also has been tipped as a possible finance minister and is seen pushing an expansionary fiscal policy in either post.

But how far the LDP can go toward the permanent income tax cuts many advocated as necessary to stimulate growth remains in some doubt.

"Tax-cutting is at the heart of the power-structure of the LDP and Finance Ministry and there is deep-seated resistance to cutting resources," one analyst said.

Nor is everyone certain that Kajiyama would take equally aggressive steps in vital areas such as scaling back the government's role in the economy. That, analysts say, is also a must if Japan is to tackle the problem of its huge budget deficit.

"He [Kajiyama] makes decisions, but unfortunately he tends to be old-fashioned and [in favor of a big role for government]," a political analyst said.

A dark horse candidate, Health Minister Junichiro Koizumi, a relative youngster at 56, is known for his controversial advocacy of privatizing the postal system and is said to be supported by younger LDP members. But despite his reformist image, he remains something of an unknown quantity.

"He's telegraphic, populist and he has an issue, but I don't know how much is really behind it," the diplomatic source said.

Sudan government accepts rebels' cease-fire offer

By ALFRED TABAN

KHARTOUM (Reuters) — Sudan's Islamist government has agreed to a one-month cease-fire with rebels to ease food distribution in the famine-stricken south, the official news agency SUNA reported yesterday.

The southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) on Wednesday declared a three-month truce in the area, where aid agencies say up to two million people are facing starvation.

SUNA quoted Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail as saying the cease-fire was effective immediately.

The Sudanese government called for a cease-fire during peace talks with the rebels in May. The SPLA is fighting for autonomy of the mainly Christian and animist south from the Moslem Arab north.

Ismail said the government had declared the truce after appeals by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, the current head of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which is mediating in the 15-year-old Sudanese civil war.

On Wednesday, the SPLA said it would halt fighting in the Bahr al-Ghazal and Upper Nile provinces to create "corridors of tranquillity" to ease food distribution.

Nairobi-based representatives of the group said the SPLA had been pressured into declaring a truce by the international community and added that it reserves the right to defend itself.

"This is a humanitarian truce, limited to areas seriously affected by famine and has nothing to do with issues of war and peace in Sudan," SPLA Commerce Secretary Pagum Anum told reporters on Wednesday.

Aid agencies say more than 700,000 people are short of food in Bahr al-Ghazal.

British Foreign Office Minister Derek Fatchett said in Khartoum on Wednesday he hoped the cease-fire would aid peace efforts between the government and the rebels.

Sudanese state radio quoted Culture and Information Minister Ghazi Salahuddin as saying yesterday the SPLA call was a "positive development."

Ismail said he hoped it would "develop into a comprehensive cease-fire to coincide with negotiations as this is the only way to resolve the problem of the south." The government and the rebels are due to hold peace talks in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa next month. Both sides agreed to peace talks in Kenya in May to an internationally supervised vote on self-determination for the south.

But they disagreed on the region's boundaries and on issues of religion and state.

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM
mourns the passing of
HENRY J. LEIR
of Luxembourg and New York
a long-time friend and generous benefactor
of the University
and extends condolences to the family.

With deep sorrow, we announce the death of our beloved
mother, grandmother and great-grandmother
**FANNY (Fay)
WEINREICH KANNER**
Formerly of Muizenberg, Cape Town, and Jerusalem
in London on July 7, 1998
Weinreich, Margolis and Isaac Families
Rena Weinreich, 48 Ben Nun Street, Tel Aviv, Tel. (03) 605 9104.

Our loving uncle
RONNIE MISHEIKER
passed away on July 14.
He will be sadly missed and always remembered by
His loving niece, Marilyne
His nephew, Nick
and their families
Shiva at 7 Bnei Betera, Jerusalem.

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved
GEORGE ELLIOTT
of Moshav Kfar Daniel, on Wednesday, July 15, 1998
He will be missed by
His loving wife, Anne
Daughters, Jacky and Dalia
and families
May he rest in peace.

We will be gathering to remember our dear
GEDALIA SEGAL
on Sunday, July 19 at 12 noon at Kiryat Tivon Cemetery.
At this time we will unveil his matzeva.
Batsheva Cogan Segal
Oreet and family
Dveera and family
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In deep sorrow, we announce the passing of my beloved wife, our
mother, sister and grandmother
**CHAWA (Eva) VAN-ZWANENBERGH
HALLER**
The funeral took place on Tuesday, July 14, 1998 (20 Tamuz 5758) at
the Kfar Masaryk cemetery.
Mourning by: Her husband, Ezraim
Nataniel, Michael, Micha, Nira, Harry,
the family and grandchildren

Hadassah Medical Organization
mourns the passing of
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We extend heartfelt condolences to his family.

07-6842-095

Serbian police disperse Kosovo assembly

By DOUGLAS HAMILTON

PRISTINA, Serbia (Reuters) — Kosovo Albanians yesterday inaugurated their parliament, which neither Belgrade authorities nor the outside world recognize, and Serbian police immediately intervened and ordered the legislators to disperse.

Eyewitnesses said police arrived after a brief session during which political representatives elected by the ethnic Albanian majority last March were sworn in. The legislators left peacefully. Ibrahim Rugova, leader of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), the biggest party in the parliament and recognized by ethnic Albanians as their president, said: "We have done it."

A burst of applause from supporters greeted him as he emerged later from his party's headquarters, where the meeting took place. Rugova, flanked by bodyguards, made no statement.

Around 90 deputies attended the meeting in Pristina chaired by Rugova. They already had elected a speaker and sworn an oath of

allegiance when police broke up the gathering.

About 20 uniformed police with AK-47 automatic rifles then took up guard in their open vehicles outside while a dozen plainclothes officers entered the building and removed armloads of documents. The atmosphere was tense but the action ended with no arrests. A US diplomat alerted to the police action was in the building for part of the time.

"The police were not brutal but they were very tough. We were given two minutes to pack up the papers," said Nekibe Kelmendi, secretary of LDK.

There was no immediate statement from Serbian authorities, who have been battling Albanian separatists in Kosovo and were virtually certain to dismiss the inauguration as illegal or at least invalid.

Momilo Trajkovic, head of the Serb resistance movement in Kosovo, said: "I fully approve of the police action. Are we going to see the creation of a state within a state, especially now? The answer is of course not."

Albanian deputies said the next step was a government.

"This time it will be a government in Kosovo, not in exile," said Gjergji Dedaj, who was named as one of three deputy speakers of the assembly.

"It is a very historic day marking the start of a new free, democratic and independent state of Kosovo," he said, moments before police arrived on the scene. However, the significance of the move remains to be seen.

Neither Belgrade nor any other capital recognizes Rugova's parliament to date. While major powers continue to view Rugova as the moderate voice of ethnic Albanian aspirations, they acknowledge that his authority has been weakened by the emergence of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

The insurgents, who claim to be in control of 50 percent of the Serbian province where ethnic Albanians outnumber Serbs by nine to one, do not recognize Rugova as president and have said no political party can speak for them.



Russian soldiers carry coffins containing the remains of Czar Nicholas II and his family following a church service in Yekaterinburg yesterday. Their remains were then sent to St. Petersburg for the burial today in the family crypt of the Romanov czars. (AP)

Yeltsin to attend czar's burial ceremony today

By GARETH JONES

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin said yesterday he would attend today's burial ceremony for Russia's last czar in a move that underlined a new-found confidence in the country's ability to weather its economic crisis.

Yeltsin, who has refused to leave Moscow in recent weeks because of the crisis, had previously indicated he would not travel to St. Petersburg, the former imperial capital, for the burial of the remains of Czar Nicholas II and his family.

The 67-year-old president has warned of mounting social and political turmoil in Russia but that prospect seems to have receded somewhat since the government agreed on a rescue package with global lenders on Monday worth \$22.6 billion.

The international bailout hinges on the government's package of austerity measures now being debated by the Duma, Russia's opposition-dominated lower house of parliament.

In a further boost for Yeltsin, the Duma yesterday approved the main part of a landmark tax code

long awaited by investors and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Kremlin announced that Yeltsin would begin his summer holiday in the Karelia region of northwest Russia from next Monday, the day the IMF board is due to approve the first \$6 billion of the loan package.

The more relaxed mood in Moscow contrasts sharply with Yeltsin's own gloomy warnings less than a week ago about a possible attempt by "extremist" forces to seize power.

Explaining his decision to go to St. Petersburg, Yeltsin said in a televised statement: "This truth has been concealed for 80 years and we have to tell this truth tomorrow and I should take part. This will be the right thing to do from the human point of view."

Nicholas, his wife Alexandra and their five children were shot dead in Siberia by Bolsheviks in July 1918.

Yeltsin had always intended the burial to be an act of reconciliation with Russia's bloody past but the Orthodox Church cast doubt over the bones' authenticity, despite DNA tests.

Patriarch Alexei, the church's

head, will not attend the burial.

The political storm that has raged over the burial ceremony — with most senior politicians saying they will not attend — has vividly demonstrated the lack of reconciliation in Russian society 80 years after the killing of the imperial family.

As the government scrambles to implement the measures demanded by the IMF, millions of Russians continue to suffer big delays in the payment of wages and pensions.

Miners have been picketing the headquarters of the federal government in Moscow for more than a month and are also partially blocking key railway lines in Siberia.

The situation is getting worse. Our negotiations [with the authorities] on unblocking the railway line have brought no results," miners' union spokesman Sergei Chermennov told Reuters by telephone from the Kemerovo region.

He said the miners, who are demanding their wage arrears and Yeltsin's resignation, were now pinning their hopes on a meeting on July 25 with Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Syushev.

Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko told a cabinet session yesterday

that he expected parliament to approve the package of anti-crisis measures by Monday.

"The main task now is to conclude the passing by the Duma and the Federation Council [upper chamber] of the package of draft laws which would secure implementation of the government's economic program," Itar-Tass news agency quoted him as saying.

The Duma has already passed some of the draft laws, partially or finally. Some were thrown out and at least nine more draft laws, including a revision of personal income tax rules, were due to be considered yesterday.

Approval of the general part of the new tax code and of a cut in profit tax to 30 percent from 35% will please investors. The tax code is aimed at simplifying and reducing Russia's messy and onerous fiscal system, long targeted by economists as one of the main brakes on economic recovery.

The Duma yesterday also passed a flat tax of 20% on small businesses whose turnover is hard to calculate.

But on a more worrying note, deputies have not yet passed any tax hikes, which are also an important part of the anti-crisis package.

Clinton fails to block Starr subpoenas

By PETE YOST

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an aggressive counterattack, government lawyers tried unsuccessfully to block subpoenas to President Bill Clinton's Secret Service protectors, while the president's lawyers accused prosecutors of a "backdoor attempt" to learn what Clinton may have told them confidentially.

Justice Department lawyers challenged the subpoenas in a private meeting Wednesday that lasted about an hour in the chambers of US District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson, who oversees the grand jury investigating allegations of a presidential affair and cover-up.

The judge refused to quash the subpoenas and didn't immediately issue a stay that would have delayed independent counsel Kenneth Starr in getting testimony from the agent who leads Clinton's security detail and eight uniformed Secret Service officers, according to legal sources. Johnson left the Justice Department with little choice but to seek an emergency stay from the federal appeals court.

The Secret Service personnel were summoned to testify yesterday before the grand jury.

"Our position has always been to use all available legal means to gather full and truthful testimony for the grand jury as expeditiously as

possible," said Starr's spokesman, Charles Bakaly. Bakaly said he would not comment on the status of any sealed court proceeding.

Prosecutors from Starr's office and Justice Department lawyers left the meeting in Johnson's chambers without commenting.

Starr's subpoenas to Special Agent Larry Cockell and the uniformed officers brought a swift response from the Clinton camp, with lawyers Robert Bennett and David Kendall suggesting Starr was trying to question the agents about what they have overheard when present for conversations between the president and his private lawyers.

COLUMN ONE

Continued from Page 6

Third becomes first

In an ironic twist of fate, Graca could become first lady of the country whose former government remains under suspicion for being involved in the 1986 plane crash that killed her husband. A South African-made VOR (VHF omni-directional radio) beacon allegedly was rigged to lure the plane off course.

In practice, Graca has been accorded the rights and respect of a first lady for some time. For Mandela, she already has proved to be third-time lucky in his personal relationships. As a prominent tribal youth in Transkei, he fled to Johannesburg from an arranged marriage the elders tried to force on him. He met and married his first wife Evelyn in 1944.

The marriage lasted 13 years amid increasing difficulties, as Mandela became more involved in the banned African National

Congress. Evelyn quarreled with him over his late nights and long absences in dangerous political work. They had four children, of whom two survived.

A year later he met and married Winnie, the most famous (some would say notorious) and fiery woman in his life. They had two girls, Zindzi and Zenani. The marriage survived Mandela's 27 years in prison, but collapsed on his release. Winnie's apparent loyalty earned her enormous international admiration and affection, which she then squandered in involvements with shadowy deeds and violent people.

At his divorce hearing in 1996, Mandela revealed that, behind their facade of loyalty and support, he had been "the loneliest man during the period that I stayed with her."

Second sight

Mandela and Machel met in 1990 and slowly became friends. They publicly acknowledged a

personal relationship only last year, although Graca admitted they had been in love for some time. "He's easy to love," she said, but she added recently "It wasn't Winnie's story — it wasn't love at first sight." She has remained more level-headed about the relationship than the romantic Madiba. It is she who has been reluctant to marry, because she values her independence and her work in Mozambique. (She divides her time between Maputo and Johannesburg.)

Recently the couple has become inseparable. Television images of Madiba and Graca (or Romeo and Graca, as one citizen quipped on camera) strolling the leafy avenues of Houghton, hand-in-hand in luminous greenery, have captured the hearts of South Africans.

"We don't take this for granted," Graca said in a recent interview. "We both have had very hard times ... we say at last we are very lucky, because we could have ended up without being able to share this. So, share it already lovers, and let's all celebrate."

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Clinton's about-face

There is nothing like the threat of a congressional veto override to concentrate a president's mind. The day the House of Representatives was expected to overwhelmingly reject President Bill Clinton's veto of a bill to sanction companies aiding Iran's missile program, the White House issued its own sanctions against nine such entities. Clinton deserves credit for decisively imposing even tougher sanctions than Congress proposed, while Congress is to be congratulated for responsibly cornering the president into exercising such leadership.

Clinton's about-face came after more than a year of prevarication over clear evidence that Russian institutes and companies were providing critical assistance to Iran's crash missile program. Congress is now expected to delay voting on the veto override until just after Clinton's visit to Russia in early September. The announced sanctions, combined with the potential vote, will provide an important testing period for Russian actions against companies that violate their own export control laws.

The sanctions, of course, must not be considered an end in themselves, but a means to ending foreign assistance to Iran's missile program. The US should make clear to Russia, China, and any other country engaged in the proliferation of technology that endangers America and her allies, that the announced sanctions are not a one-shot effort to placate Congress, but reflect a conscious policy that can be expanded upon if necessary. It can only be hoped that the success of Congress in putting some backbone into US policy toward Russia's Iranian connection will be repeated with respect to the languishing US policy toward Iraq. Since the UN-brokered deal that averted a US military action in February, Clinton and Congress have been headed on a collision course.

Congress has supported a two-track policy: no compromises on the full implementation of UN resolutions to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, and support for the broad-based opposition to Saddam Hussein. While the White House claims to be pursuing both tracks, evidence is mounting that the actual policy is to do neither — and hope that the problem will stay swept under the rug.

In a June 22 letter to Clinton, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott and House Speaker Newt Gingrich said they were "deeply troubled" by the "apparent failure of the United States to fully support the work of [UN inspectors] at a time when its efforts to verify Iraqi compliance with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions are under assault." The letter also expresses concern that the US has acquiesced to the suspension of challenge inspections, which are the most critical component of the

work of United Nations Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM). The pattern that has emerged is one in which UNSCOM is under increasing pressure from France, Russia, and China to end inspections and lift sanctions, with the US standing by and letting the inspections regime be undermined. This despite the fact that Iraq has just been shown to have been lying about having placed the deadly VX nerve agent on its warheads, and not giving a full accounting of its chemical and biological weapon stockpiles.

The US almost launched a massive military attack against Saddam Hussein's regime in February to ensure that some of his palaces would be open to inspection. Yet now that Iraq is supposedly cooperating, it is UNSCOM that is being forced to hold back on its most powerful tools, such as snap inspections. This although even Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk admits that, "I don't believe Saddam Hussein is ready to give up his weapons of mass destruction." Just as UNSCOM is being quietly abandoned by the Clinton administration, amid claims of full support, the democratic Iraqi opposition is being killed with faux kindness. Congress appropriated \$10 million in support for the Iraqi opposition and stipulated that a "significant portion" of the aid go to the only opposition group that Saddam is really afraid of, the Iraqi National Congress (INC). But rather than seeking to use the money effectively, the State Department has chosen to spread it among 82 separate opposition groups, many of which no longer exist or have little to do with opposing Saddam Hussein.

The State Department report reads like a textbook example of, as an Internet posting by one sharp Iraqi described it, "training the exiled opposition to remain an exiled opposition." Rather than backing the INC's serious military plan to capture territory, set up a provisional government, and capitalize on defecting Iraqi military units, the State Department plan is to spend the money on "management consultants," "training the rank and file in word processing," and other assorted busywork. Over \$2 million are earmarked for "documenting war crimes."

What is really going on is the Clinton administration escorting UNSCOM toward a slow death, and assiduously avoiding any serious support for the Iraqi opposition. Taken together, these two policies will be read — correctly — in the region as appeasement of Saddam, resulting in the steady strengthening of his regime. In the end, Congress will force Clinton to do an about-face on Iraq, as it has on Iranian missile sanctions. The question is what price will be paid until then by the people of Iraq and in the security of the region.

CHARACTER ASSASSINATION KILLS!



Bad politics, in general

MOSHE ARENS

There was a time when it was a pretty safe bet that the IDF chief of general staff was a card-carrying member of the Labor Party. If there were any doubts, they were quickly dispelled when he retired and found that the party elders had prepared a chair for him at the cabinet table.

Those were the days when being a member of the Labor Party was very helpful in advancing through the ranks. Having been associated in any way and at any time with the opposition was bound to make advancement to the higher ranks difficult, if not impossible.

Moshe Dayan and Haim Bar-Lev received red-carpet treatment upon retiring as chief of staff, and went on to become ministers in Labor governments. It was the same for Yitzhak Rabin, who, after serving as Israel's ambassador in Washington and after a short stint as labor minister, became prime minister.

When the Likud ascended to power in the great political upset of May 1977, this symbiotic relationship between Labor and the IDF was interrupted. It was thus an unpleasant surprise to see a return to the old ways with Labor's return to power in 1992.

Shortly after retiring as chief of staff, Ehud Barak officially joined the Labor Party and joined

Yitzhak Rabin's government as interior minister. If it is true that Barak, now the leader of the Labor Party, is trying to induce Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, who just retired as chief of general staff, to join his party with a promise of the Defense portfolio should Labor return to power, it is an indication that Labor finds it difficult to shake off bad habits. Hopefully Shahak will be wise enough to turn down the offer.

IT IS not that generals, who have acquired a wealth of experience in dealing with complex defense and

the greatest democracies. The US has elected a number of generals to the presidency; the first was George Washington and the most recent was Dwight Eisenhower. France had De Gaulle.

IT IS natural that in periods when countries fight wars or face serious defense problems, former generals will rise to political prominence. It is the instant transformation from man in uniform to politician that can cause serious problems.

This is especially true in Israel,

It's time to legislate a cooling-off period for senior IDF officers who want to pursue politics

logistic problems during their long years of military service, cannot make significant contributions to national politics. There are many examples of generals who have risen to the top of the political pyramid.

This is true not only in countries that lack a democratic tradition, like some of our Middle Eastern neighbors, but also in

where it is essential to keep the army out of politics, and to avoid the slightest impression that the IDF has been politicized in any way. At a time when issues bearing on the nation's defense, such as the IDF's redeployment in Judea and Samaria or its withdrawal from southern Lebanon, are dominant political issues, splitting the nation almost always

the middle, this is not an easy task. Our politicians may even on occasion attempt to maneuver the IDF or some of its top generals into positions where they seem to provide "objective" support for their policies, but the chief of general staff must resist falling into such traps.

When a senior IDF general moves from the military into politics without a decent cooling-off period, there is no escaping the feeling that his political loyalties may have influenced his decisions and behavior while still in uniform. That is unacceptable in a democracy and should be forbidden in Israel.

It is high time that the Knesset pass legislation obliging senior military officers to go through a substantial cooling-off period between retiring from the IDF and joining the political fray.

If the desirability of such a law is so obvious, why hasn't it yet been passed? The inescapable answer is that both of our major political parties want to keep open the option of latching on to a popular general immediately upon his retirement, in the hope of improving their chances in the subsequent elections.

Sometimes the planning horizon of politicians does not extend much beyond their noses. But, better late than never.

When Oslo finally dies

HENRY SIEGMAN

In recent weeks, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his spokespeople have issued daily pronouncements about the "narrowing gap" between Israel's position and the US administration's initiative calling for an Israeli redeployment of 13.1 percent in the West Bank.

Far from heralding an imminent agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, these pronouncements are intended as a cover for the inevitable formal collapse of the Oslo peace process that began with such high expectations nearly five years ago.

While the US administration wasted two years deluding itself about Netanyahu's "real intentions," relying on his alleged pragmatism and commitment to the implementation of Israel's undertakings under the Oslo Accords, Netanyahu waged a relentless and effective war against those accords, aimed at killing the peace process.

He has been brilliantly successful in wearing down every one — Israelis, Palestinians, Jordanians, Egyptians and, finally, Americans as well — making all of them weary and sick of the process. It is a success for which the US, but above all the Israelis themselves, will unfortunately pay dearly.

Prospects for an Israeli-Palestinian agreement will not improve in the slightest even if Netanyahu were to agree at the last moment to accept the American proposal.

He is a past master at preventing implementation of agreements that hold any promise of accommodation to Palestinian

demands, while shifting the blame to the Palestinians themselves. He has already fully laid out the groundwork for such obstruction by announcing that everything is nearly in place for Israel's acceptance of the American idea, except for the Palestinian lack of reciprocity.

It is a tactic Netanyahu has resorted to repeatedly these past two years to camouflage his own government's violations of reciprocity, which include Israel's failure to allow the opening of

an airport and seaport in Gaza and safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank, the failure to release Palestinian prisoners as promised, and — above all — unilateral actions by Israel in Jerusalem and in the West Bank, such as housing projects, the enlargement of settlements and the construction of major roadways, to preempt issues that were to be discussed in the final-status negotiations.

If what lies ahead is the scenario described by the IDF's intelligence, Israelis will have no one to blame but themselves

an airport and seaport in Gaza and safe passage between Gaza and the West Bank, the failure to release Palestinian prisoners as promised, and — above all — unilateral actions by Israel in Jerusalem and in the West Bank, such as housing projects, the enlargement of settlements and the construction of major roadways, to preempt issues that were to be discussed in the final-status negotiations.

Even if the Netanyahu government were to redeploy the IDF in accordance with the American proposal, the prospect for the progress of the final-status issues (borders, Jerusalem, refugees and water) is nil. The deadline of May 1999, which under Oslo marks the end of the negotiations, would be impossible to meet even if there were an abundance of good will between the parties. (If such good will existed, however, the deadline for reaching an agreement could have been extended.)

Under the present circumstances, which are marked by profound mistrust, hostility and a continuing determination by this Israeli government to treat Palestinians not as partners in a peace process but as closet terrorists, May 1999 could well trigger a sudden downward spiral that will return the region to the conflict and violence that characterized it for nearly half a century.

The possibility, if not the likelihood, of such disastrous consequences is attested to by Israel's own army intelligence. While last summer the IDF intelligence service concluded that the likelihood of war in 1998 was low and that they did not expect serious clashes with the Syrians or the Palestinians, they now say that the probability of war in 1999 has risen dramatically.

They conclude that if the political impasse continues, there could be a large-scale flare-up with the Palestinians and the Syrians in 1999. And in those circumstances, there is no reason to believe that Israel's peace agreements with Egypt and

Jordan will hold.

Earlier this year, Ha'aretz warned that Israel's situation today is chillingly similar to the period preceding the Yom Kippur War, "a disaster brought on by a diplomatic freeze, boastful self-confidence, contempt for the Arab adversary and a nation which followed its leaders into destructive apathy. It takes no great imagination to see how today's march of folly is returning Israel to the bloodshed of previous blindness."

Given the imminent proliferation of missiles and weapons of mass destruction, the damage to Israel following a collapse of the peace process could be incalculable. If what lies ahead is the scenario described by the IDF's intelligence, Israelis will have no one to blame but themselves.

Arab countries are always lectured by Israelis that, unlike its neighbors, Israel is a democracy. And so it is. What distinguishes a democracy is that its citizens have the possibility of repudiating leaders whose policies they reject, especially in parliamentary systems such as the Israeli one, whose Knesset can oust the prime minister.

They have not done so, and will therefore have few claims on others in dealing with their failure's consequences. You cannot repudiate US diplomatic efforts in the name of Israeli democracy, and then demand that the US intervene in the conflict triggered by that repudiation in order to save the Middle East's "only democracy."

The writer is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NOT TAKING SIDES

Sir, — I write in response to Jonathan Rosenblum's article "Reform are not martyrs" (July 10), which opens with Senator Moynihan's recent report that "over half the mail sent to his office about Israel in 1997 dealt with some aspect of the 'Who is a Jew' Question."

Rosenblum then notes the senator's admonition that American Jews avoid lobbying Washington, DC on domestic Israeli political and social questions to avoid, in Menachem Begin's telling phrase, giving "anyone a reason to vote against any reasonable request of

any Israeli government." Alas, having quite correctly recorded Moynihan's urging that he and his colleagues not be dragged into internal Israeli and Jewish communal squabbles, Rosenblum swiftly proceeds to do precisely that by enlisting the senator's remarks to introduce his criticism of Reform Judaism, Peace Now and other left-wing groups.

Even a cursory reading of Senator Moynihan's speech will show that he did not single out any particular Jewish movement or group for criticism. Sadly enough,

the events of the last few years have produced uneasily pressure on Israel's friends in Congress from almost every part of the Jewish and Israeli political and theological spectrum.

Senator Moynihan was deploring this development, hardly, as Jonathan Rosenblum seems to suggest, taking sides in any of these disputes.

DAVID LUCHINS
Senior Advisor to Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan

Washington, DC.

HOUSE DEMOLITIONS

Sir, — The destruction of a house last week in Anata village was barely noticed in the Israeli media: to its credit, The Jerusalem Post published a short item: "IDF demolishes W. Bank houses" (July 10).

Having been among the protesters present, I would like to add a few significant details. It is misleading to state that (Palestinian) "protesters stoned soldiers," who responded with "tear gas and stun grenades." In fact, the sequence was quite the opposite.

When we Israeli protesters arrived, the house had already been partially demolished and the tractor driver was continuing his swath of destruction. The large

crowd of Palestinians, keeping their distance on the ridge above, watched silently and sullenly.

However, when the tractor driver saw fit to level the small duck-house and a few trees which had formed a modest garden, the crowd started shouting their revulsion. The response of the soldiers was to indiscriminately open fire, not with "tear gas" but with rubber (and by some reports, steel) bullets. The gunfire felled two people (one a small child). It was only in the ensuing ruckus that some people began throwing stones and were dispersed by a stun grenade.

Later, standing with his weeping teenage daughters and wife amidst

the rubble of what had been their home for seven years, the head of the house vowed that they would rebuild and replant and continue to believe that one day they would live in peace with us.

His unknown paraphrase of the prophet Isaiah was the one ray of hope in another dark day for Zionist "purity of arms." Indeed, it was a slim ray — angrily interrupted by a young relative threatening to be the next to blow up an Israeli bus.

BEN HOLLANDER
Rabbi for Human Rights

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On July 17, 1933, The Palestine Post reported that Lord Melchett, a member of the Church of England, had embraced Judaism at a secret service in the North London Synagogue. His return to faith of his forefathers was regarded as a protest against the treatment of

Jews by the Nazis in Germany. 50 years ago: On July 17, 1948, The Palestine Post reported that an Egyptian aircraft was shot down during a raid on Tel Aviv in which 12 persons were killed and 40 wounded.

25 years ago: On July 17, 1973, The Jerusalem Post

reported that in the wake of a riot by Georgian immigrants in Ashdod, representatives of the town met with prime minister Golda Meir in an effort to ease their absorption.

Alexander Zvielli

POSTSCRIPTS

IF YOU love babies, Des Moines is the place to be.

Linda Manning spends every other Saturday night watching the 4-month old McCaughey septuplets on the overnight shift.

Sixty volunteers cuddle the babies and feed them as many as 40 bottles a day.

"I get to hold them, watch them change each week, see them growing. They're gaining personalities of their own," Cindy Manning, one of the volunteers said. "They talk back to you now."

Since bedrooms in the tiny house are crammed with chests and cradles, diaper changing and caring for the babies takes place in the living room. Clean diapers — the babies go through as many as 50 a day — sit on the coffee table.

The small army of volunteers is there virtually all the time; the family is alone only between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m.

Kenny McCaughey has said that without the volunteers' help, it would be next to impossible caring for the history-making babies born November 19. Kenny and Bobbi's brood, and septuplets born January 14 to a woman in Saudi Arabia, are the world's only living sets of septuplets.

The seven babies Kenneth, Nathan, Joel, Braddon, Kelsey, Alexis and Natalie came home at different times and were finally united March 1.

Besides caring for the babies, volunteers do up to 15 loads of laundry per week and help out

with other chores.

Each feeding and diaper change is documented on a chart on the wall. A volunteer starts a shift by checking the chart to see who needs a feeding or a diaper change.

Through the din of familiar voices, volunteer Emily Webb remembers one voice sticking out above the rest.

"It was so neat to be holding one of the babies. Then when Bobbi talked to him, his eyes just sparkled and the grin got so big," Webb said. "His response to Bobbi's voice was just so much greater. It was so neat to watch his reaction to his mom."

But which McCaughey? Webb isn't sure — but she's narrowed it down to either Nathan or Joel

IT'S THE sort of thing we all dream should happen: when Microsoft's Bill Gates publicly introduced the company's newest operating system, it crashed.

At a computer trade show in Chicago, Microsoft's Windows 98 collapsed when an employee attempted to plug in a scanner, with his boss standing alongside. Gates was forced to move to another computer to complete his demonstration of the successor to Windows 95.

"I guess we still have some bugs to work out," he noted ruefully. "That must be why we're not shipping Windows 98 yet."

Recovering nicely, he said the incident shows that what everyone needs is two computers — in case one fails.

On the fence at Yale

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

When I was in law school, Sunday was my favorite day — sleep until 11:00, brunch and shmoozing until 1:00, and then settle in front of the TV with the Sunday New York Times to watch an endless stream of football games. There I would remain until it was time for the law school basketball league to convene.

And so it went week after week — at least for this aspiring member of the class that manipulates words and symbols for big bucks. Sounds pretty leisurely, I know. But no one should suspect that such a day did not involve its own careful planning or present its own special set of dilemmas. Actually, every minute had to be carefully calibrated to achieve my day's goal.

And what was that goal? Nothing less momentous than maximizing the amount of football watched while still leaving enough time to get in sufficient warm-up shots for the law school basketball game.

A typical suburban product — the kind who would pass up unguarded lay-ups to shoot 10-foot jumpers — those warm-up shots held the key to a day of glory or ignominy.

Only one fly in the ointment marred my weekly idyll. As freshman counselor, I then lived on a massive quad, housing over a thousand college freshmen. On Sundays, only one of the two main gates to the quad was open, and parked directly in front of that gate was a Habad mitzva mobile.

Every week, as I passed by, I was asked, "Are you Jewish?" My physiognomy ruled out denial as a viable option, and besides, I was always proud of being Jewish.

mitzva mobile never took less than 10 minutes. By the time I emerged, I had invariably missed my warm-up shots.

Finally, one Sunday, I decided I could take it no longer. Instead of going out the open gate, I would climb over the 10-foot fence, topped by wrought iron spikes, on the opposite side of the quad.

Filled with resolve, I set off in sweat suit and gym shoes to conquer the fence, forgetting for the moment that I had never been the most agile of men.

I managed to get one foot over the fence and onto a foothold on the other side. But as I started to lift the second foot over the spikes, my foot slipped on the icy crossbar and the spike shot up under my sweat suit jacket, stopping just short of the jugular.

I was left hanging, feet flailing, my back to New Haven Green. It seemed like an eternity until I regained my footing, though it was probably less than 10 seconds.

WHY, THE reader will ask, am I sharing this tale of youthful humiliation?

The truth is that I've come to view that seemingly trivial incident as something of a turning point in my life. As I was dangling on the fence, I could not help but picture how ridiculous I must appear to any holiday shoppers crossing New Haven Green at that moment.

And it occurred to me that if the simple question — Are you Jewish? — had thrown me into a such panic and led me to undertake something so ridiculous, perhaps I should

It occurred to me that perhaps I should inquire more deeply into what it means to be Jewish

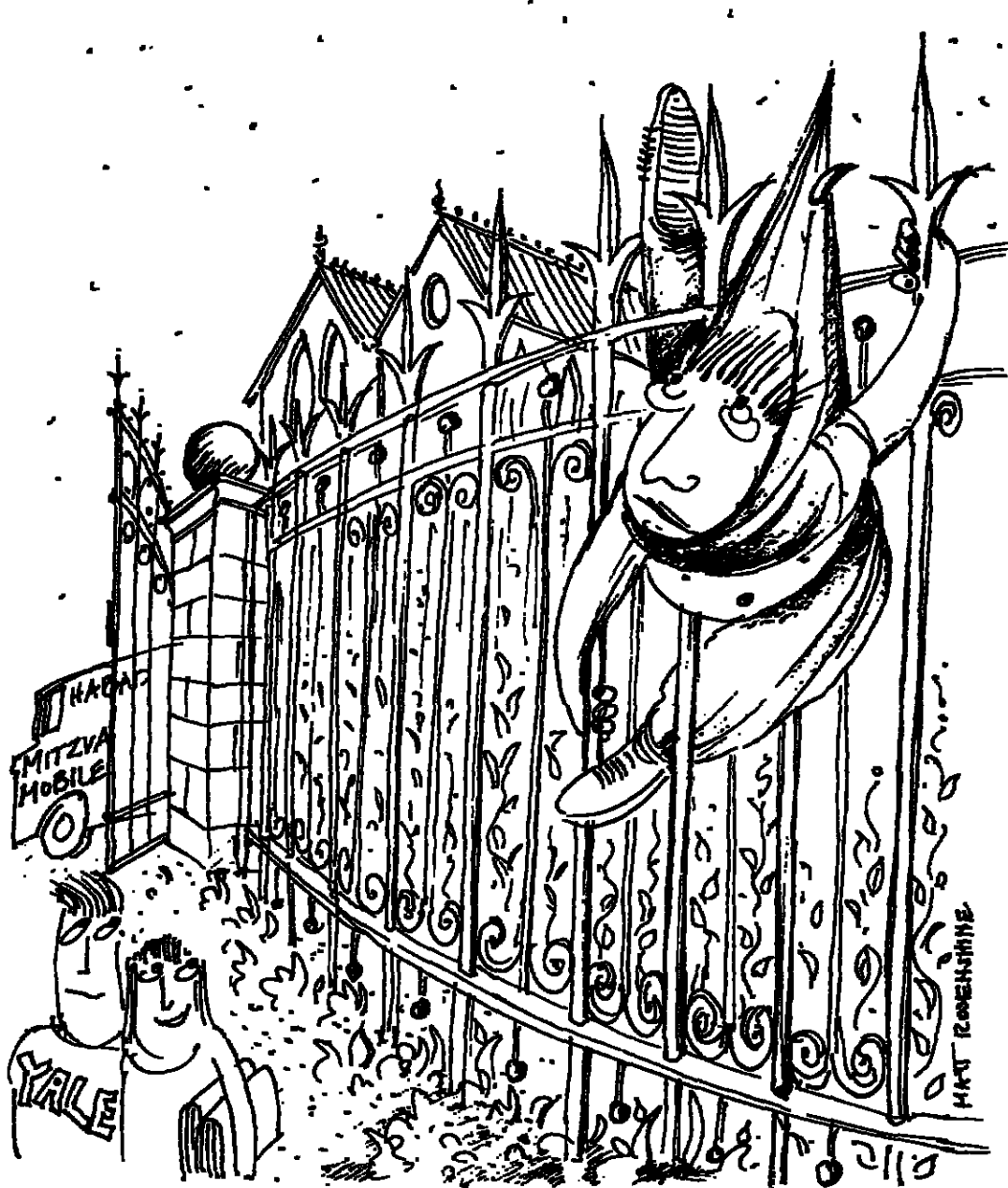
Thus the first question led inevitably to a second: "Do you want to put on tefillin?"

Though the last time I had done so was long before my bar mitzva, in Tefillin Club, (principal attractions: bowing and lox and bagels), I could not come up with a good reason not to comply.

But as any beginner will tell you, it takes a while to get the hang of those straps, so my stint in the

inquire a little more deeply into what it means to be Jewish.

Nothing particularly logical about that response, but who knows if moments of spiritual arousal are ever completely logical. No, I did not rush back to my room, pack my bags and head off for Jerusalem to enroll in a yeshiva for *hor'im betshuva*. That was still years away. (For one thing, I had no idea that such a thing existed.)



The French connection

MARK A. HELLER

It is rare for President Hafez Assad to travel outside Syria, and rarer still for him to venture beyond the confines of the Islamic world.

Assad's visit to France this week is therefore particularly noteworthy, as much for what it says about Syrian concerns as for what it says about French ambitions.

Since the creation of the Fifth Republic, the pursuit of independence from the US has always been a central feature of French foreign policy. This was especially the case under Gaullist and neo-Gaullist governments, which often seemed to act as though differentiating Paris from Washington was an end in itself.

The need for France to be France has manifested itself in a variety of arenas, particularly in the Middle East. Over the years, France and the US have squabbled about arms sales to Libya, containment of Iran, reactions to Iraqi provocations, and the entirety of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

France has been particularly determined to ward off what it perceives as American intemperance and to preserve some kind of privileged

relationship with its former colonies in North Africa and its former mandates in the Levant.

For these reasons, much has changed since the good (or bad) old days of Suez, when France was Israel's closest foreign ally and the US pursued even-handedness with a pronounced pro-Arab tilt.

In recent decades, the two powers appear to have traded places. Israelis can appreciate French wine, French food and, now, French football. They can even feel, as others have ever since the French Revolution, that they belong to that community of free people who really have two homelands — their own, and France. But they also have sound reasons to take a jaundiced view of French political activism in this part of the world.

Rather than simply nursing a grudge, however, Israel might consider the fact that France's privileged relations with Syria and Lebanon endow it with potentially constructive influence — in the same way that Arabs understand the usefulness of cultivating ties with the US.

In fact, it is probably concern

about this sort of influence that has led Assad to travel to France, rather than to Russia, his once and future armorer.

Assad would certainly welcome effective French (or French-led

Assad's foray to France should lead Israel to consider how that country can help us

European) pressure on Israel to be more forthcoming on the Golan Heights, but it is difficult to imagine that he truly believes such pressure is possible.

His more urgent priority is to reassure himself that France will not be a party to any weakening of Lebanese government resolve to refrain from any undertaking that could facilitate an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon — a

prospect that Assad finds highly distasteful.

ISRAEL'S conditional acceptance of UN Resolution 425 produced immediate signs of Syrian nervousness that others might be more receptive to the idea than Assad would like. And there are certainly enough straws in the wind to suggest why France might also be an object of suspicion.

France is committed to the strengthening of central Lebanese authority. It plays a leading role in the monitoring group set up at the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath and has explored the idea of involvement in security arrangements in the aftermath of an Israeli withdrawal.

It even provided the link and the logistics for the negotiations between Israel and the Lebanese government — not Hizbullah — that permitted the rebuilding of Israel of the remains of Itamar Ilyia, killed in the abortive raid on a Hizbullah installation last year.

Notwithstanding professions of eternal unity and loyalty, Lebanon and Syria do not have identical

interests with respect to the terms for Israeli withdrawal from the security zone. And the potential contradiction between the two creates a potential contradiction in French commitments.

If the Israeli government is really serious about wanting to get out of southern Lebanon, it ought to try to exploit these contradictions by reducing its conditions for withdrawal to the barest, least formal minimum.

The predominant assumption is still that nothing in Lebanon can be achieved without Syrian consent, and that assumption is probably correct. But France has at least as much capacity as anyone else to change that equation, so unless Israel is willing to stay in Lebanon until it agrees to withdraw from the Golan Heights, it should explore whatever possibilities this situation implies.

And if it turns out that those possibilities include French help in extricating the IDF from Lebanon, then Israel will be able to add a new and weighty entry to the list of things French for which to be grateful.

Middle Israel

AMOTZ ASA-EL

The third Amnon

While our famously troubled waters whirl around the two Ammons, Strashnov and Zichroni, with lovely summer tales of sex, lies, lawyers, tycoons, politicians and ayatollahs, a third Amnon — Lipkin-Shahak — is roaming our streets jobless.

Gentiles of the outgoing chief of staff's ilk have seldom dealt with this kind of dilemma.

Field marshal Montgomery, for instance, led soldiers until he turned 71. Douglas MacArthur, who had become a septuagenarian before being barred by Harry Truman from running the Korea War, might still have been wearing uniforms, riding jeeps and leading troops even as an octogenarian, had he not been insubordinate. Not to mention Prince Mikhail Kutuzov, who was 67 when he drowned Napoleon's gallant armies in Russia's endless snow fields, only one year before his naturally caused death.

But the Jews, needless to say, are different, and our beloved IDF generals retire well before retirement age.

That, to be sure, is good. On the one hand, we did have a tragic experience with the first chief of staff, Ya'acov Dori, whose poor health kept him from running the Independence War. On the other, we no longer have thirty- and forty-something-year-old chiefs of staff, like war heroes Yigael Yadin, Moshe

Chemicals), Haim Laskov (Port Authority), David Elazar (Zim), Motta Gur (Koor metals), and Dan Shomron (TAAS), all parachuted onto huge commercial entities while shunning the private sector.

Set against this, Ehud Barak's announcement back in March '95, that he would opt for neither the Left nor the Right but would join instead an investors' group, came as a breath of fresh air.

Indeed, the story of investment banker Barak could have been a splendid one, even if it weren't bound to feature belligerent warriors storming a Wall Street trading floor — a la his famous gigs in enemy territory as a commando — while launching a hostile takeover of GM, GE or US Steel.

The sight of a former chief of staff dedicating himself to the accumulation of wealth as a capitalist, rather than of power as a politician, would have reflected, and in fact enhanced, Israel's post-socialist Zeitgeist.

In reality, of course, Barak sheepishly fled the private sector hardly half-a-year after having ostensibly joined it. So happy is he, apparently, with that choice that he now is seeking the company of Shahak as his shadow defense minister.

Yet few ideas could be more ill-conceived, whether for Shahak, Barak or the rest of us. Shahak would do right to draw inspiration from Ya'acov Perry.

Rather than aspire to be No. 2 in a quasi-junta, Lipkin-Shahak should shun politics and be the first-ever CGS to nest in the private sector

Dayan and Yitzhak Rabin.

The only trouble is that this ageist IDF policy creates a second-career problem, since IDF generals usually lack the kind of professional training and experience which could smoothly land them a civilian job where they could wield the kind of clout they grew accustomed to in uniform.

The only CGS who managed to earn — and quickly — a reputation as a first-rate pro in a civilian profession was archaeologist Yigael Yadin. The rest, to the last of them, preferred to let our tension accumulated over decades of perpetual anxiety and utmost responsibility, by dipping their toes in the shallow waters of state-owned companies or this or that political job.

Dayan, Rabin and Haim Bar-Lev were respectively offered, on a silver platter, the plum jobs of minister of agriculture, minister of trade and ambassador to Washington. Rafael Eitan got a Knesset seat from the Tehiya faction. Zvi Tsor continued to serve the military-industrial complex as senior adviser to a succession of defense ministers.

Ya'acov Dori, after a brief stint as advisor to David Ben-Gurion, assumed the Technion's presidency. Kibbutznik Moshe Levy returned to till the soils of the Jezreel Valley, an admirable move in itself, before failing at the last minute to win the chairmanship of Israel Aircraft Industries, and ultimately landing at the government's Cross Israel Highway company.

Mordechai Maklef (Israel

The former GSS commander, who could have easily opted for politics, chose to lead the Celcom mobile-phone company. Having hosted him at the Post recently, we couldn't escape the impression that he is having a great time presiding over one of the economy's most notable success stories, and being justly identified with it.

When a leading businessman is being jailed for failing to detect the fine line between greed and treason, the entry of a patriot like Shahak into our tycoons' milieu may be much more imperative than him lobbying for this or that party caucus's support.

As for Barak, a political ticket headed by two retired generals — let alone chiefs of staff — would inevitably call for comparisons with an assortment of juntas. What does he need that for? Just because Shahak might join another party, like Ronni Milo's? If he and the rest of them don't get this general then they'll take that one; there is no shortage of generals, and once out of uniform, much of their ostensible charisma fades away.

As for us, we've had our share of generals-turned-politicians, and practically all of them — from Dayan, Weizman and Sharon to Eitan, Rabin and Yadin — were failures. After generating, or at least harboring, great expectations to emulate De Gaulle, not one of them managed to galvanize the political system, rally the people behind him and steer this country to a better future.

But go explain that to Barak.

Beware of entangling alliances

For most of its 50 years, Israel has had an abundance of enemies, but few, if any, allies in the region. As a result of this isolation, it is hardly surprising that the relationship with Turkey is viewed as a major breakthrough.

Since the early 1990s, many Israeli decision-makers have embraced the links with Ankara with unbecoming enthusiasm. The joint military exercises, including air-force training, arms sales, visits of high-level officials, political consultations and cooperation are indications of the strength of this new alliance between two central non-Arab states in the region. Europe's rejection of Turkey's application for membership in the European Union, and the one-sided European policies with respect to Israel, provide another common factor in this alliance.

At first, Israeli officials involved in these activities gave them little publicity, in order to avoid political complications, particularly during a period of growing Islamic power in Turkey.

Nevertheless, the details were gradually revealed by the Turks, and the high-level visits of ministers and military officials were highlighted in the Turkish press. The alliance between Jerusalem and Ankara is out of the closet.

However, in international relations, as in economics, there are no free lunches or alliances. Over 200 years ago, in his farewell address to the American people, George Washington warned the new state against forming "entangling alliances" with the European powers.

While such alliances provide important additional security and reduce isolation, they also involve states in their allies' conflicts.

Besides the areas of common concern, such as Syria and Iraq, Turkey is entangled in intense conflicts with Greece (particularly over Cyprus), and with Kurdish terrorist groups. Beyond the intense cooperation with Israel in other areas, some Turkish policy makers and political leaders seem to expect Israeli assistance in these conflicts. More importantly, the Greeks and Greek Cypriots are quick to see Israeli involvement in all Turkish military actions.

The most blatant example of the complications of such relations concerns the sale of Russian S-300 air defense missiles to the government of Cyprus, which is supported by the Greek government.

The planned sale (another example of Russian meddling in troubled waters) has exacerbated the tension between Greece and

GERALD M. STEINBERG

Turkey, and led to military exercises and a sense of crisis.

The two governments have clashed repeatedly over this divided island, most recently in 1974, when Turkey intervened militarily to prevent the forced union of Cyprus with Greece following a coup in Nicosia.

IN THIS atmosphere, a prominent Turkish newspaper reported

Alliances and cooperation are important, but their limits and potential complications should not be ignored

this week that Israel was helping Turkish F-16 pilots practice attacks and prepare to destroy the new anti-aircraft systems when they are delivered to Cyprus.

Although this claim was immediately denied by the Israeli and Turkish governments, the Greeks (with Russian support) can be expected to repeat the charges and blame Israel if Turkey does

attack these weapons.

Thus, there is a potential that, at least politically, Israel could be dragged into a conflict that is none of its business, and in which Israeli interests will be harmed, regardless of the outcome.

In some of the enthusiasm for increasing the intensity of the alliance with Turkey, simplistic and one-dimensional evaluations of this relationship do not serve Israeli interests. (Similarly, Turkish analysts and decision-makers are aware of the costs of their relationship with Israel, in terms of relations with the Arab states.)

This does not mean that this cooperative relationship is a mistake — rather, it should be seen realistically as an alliance of interests and a sharing of resources. In addition to the common regional objectives, the two countries also face different threats and each has its own interests, so caution should be exercised.

These conditions are not unique to the relationship between Israel and Turkey. The growing links between India and Israel, while generally a positive development for both, also present some complications and challenges. The nuances must be framed carefully, in both New Delhi and Jerusalem, particularly

following India's recent decision to become an overt nuclear power.

Some prominent Indian analysts have argued that Israel and India also share a common threat from radical Islam. However, just as India maintains its support for the Palestinians and strong links to the major Arab states, including Egypt, it is important that Israel avoid becoming entangled in the nationalist politics of the ruling BJP Party in India.

In some areas, Israeli policies are very different from those of India, and Israel must maintain and promote its own national objectives, even when nurturing the relationship with a very important and powerful player in South Asia.

States do not have friends; they have interests. Wise statesmen are able to balance these interests, to avoid emotional responses and romantic approaches to international and regional relations.

Alliances and cooperation are important to any state, and should be supported. At the same time, the limits and potential complications of such alliances should not be ignored. Israel still faces enough threats from its own neighbors and does not need to become entangled in the conflicts of its allies.

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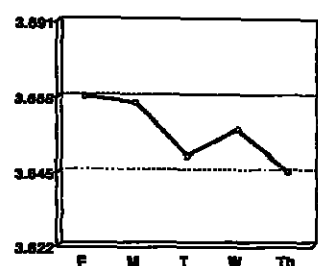
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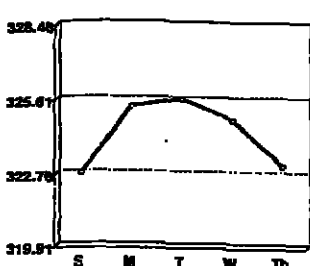
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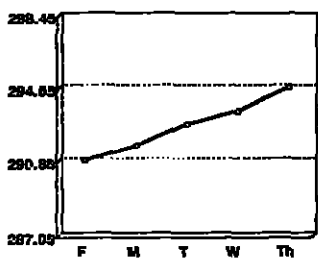


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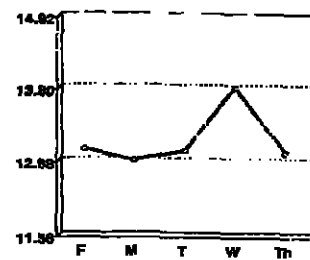
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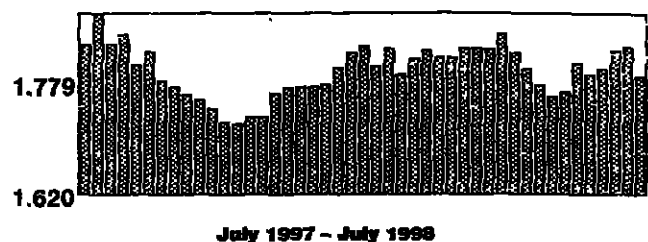


OIL

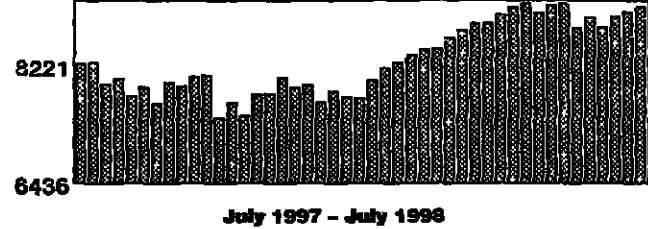
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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BITS & BYTES

Check Point profits climb 158%

Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. reported a 158 percent increase in net income in the second quarter of the year to \$19.18 million, compared with \$7.45m. in the same period in 1997.

Income was also up 24% from the first quarter of this year. However, second quarter profits included a \$2.6 million one-time capital gain from the company's investment in AbirNet Ltd., which was acquired by Memco Software during the quarter. Excluding this gain, second-quarter income was \$16.59m., up 7% from the first quarter and up 122% from last year.

Revenues in the second quarter were \$34.27m., up 90% from the second quarter last year, and up 12% from the first quarter of 1998.

CEO Gil Shwed said sales growth was especially strong in the second quarter in North America and Europe.

During the second quarter, Check Point made its first acquisition, of MetaInfo of Seattle, Washington, in a deal worth \$27.5m. which was carried out as a pooling-of-interest.

\$100m. invested in former 'incubator' firms

Fifty-one percent of the 382 ventures established in the Industry and Trade Ministry's technological incubator program over the past six years have succeeded in becoming independent companies, according to the annual report on incubators published this week.

Thirty-nine percent of them received funding from investors while 12% managed to make it on their own. Some \$100 million has been invested by the private sector in these companies.

Of those projects which folded, only 9% did so during their stay in the incubator and 49% halted activities after failing to raise funds from investors at the end of their two-year stay in the incubator.

Eighty-seven projects have already begun sales, totaling some \$39 million, 70% of that abroad. The project initiators were divided almost equally between new immigrants and veteran Israelis.

Given imaging to get more than \$1m. this year

Given Imaging, a six-month-old start-up developing technology for minimally invasive gastroenterology diagnosis, is to receive funding of more than \$1 million dollars this year by a group of investors who have received the rights to buy up to 30% of the company shares.

The Yokne'am-based company is developing a miniature camera system for use in diagnosis of problems in the small intestine.

"The small intestine is hard to look at. The idea is to swallow a capsule the size of a large vitamin containing a camera, light source, power source and transmitter. As it goes through the GI tract, it transmits images," said CEO Gavriel Meron. "The capsule and its components are disposable."

The camera patent was purchased by the company from Rafael. Investors in the company, a subsidiary of the Rafael Development Company, include Discount Investments, its sister company PEC, Elron, and a group of investors from the US, including ThermoTrex.

Meron, who is a company shareholder, said the product is to be ready for the year 2000.

Lucent, ECI Telecom form partnership

Lucent Technologies and ECI Telecom announced a three-year joint development and purchasing partnership agreement this week. Lucent, North America's largest producer of phone equipment, last week announced an agreement for the acquisition of Tel Aviv-based Lannet for \$117 million from UK-based Madge Networks N.V.

Under the agreement, Lucent is to supply optical components to the Petah Tikva-based ECI, which is to use them to develop transmitter modules for the WDM (wavelength division multiplexing) systems market. The transmitter modules will be manufactured by ECI Telecom and supplied to Lucent to sell worldwide.

WDM allows the maximization of bandwidth capability of existing fiber optic cables, and enables the delivery of multimedia services such as simultaneous voice, data and video transmission.

Discount branches remain closed today

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Branches of Israel Discount Bank will remain closed today, despite the bank's management and workers union agreeing to meet tomorrow night.

"The management is ready to enter immediate negotiations to solve all disputed problems," a Discount spokeswoman said. The announcement came after the union announced a series of sanctions starting yesterday.

In an attempt to mediate, the Histadrut

announced a meeting among Discount chairman Arie Mientkavich, union head Ricky Bechar, and Histadrut chairman Amir Peretz.

Management's decision to enter talks marks a retreat from a previous statement that the strike could continue until the union announced an unconditional return to work.

The decision to close the bank was announced by executives after the union said it intended to close different units from time to time.

In a statement, the management said the

damage caused by these sanctions would not allow the bank to function properly.

A member of the union said that all the bank branches were opened yesterday by the workers until 12:30 p.m. despite the management's announcement. He added, however, that almost no services were given as the central computer system was shut down.

The bank spokeswoman said the strike days will not be considered business days, therefore borrowers will not be charged interest for today and savers won't accrue interest.

The strike is the latest in a series of clashes between management and workers, which followed the appointment of Mientkavich against the background of talks over a new wage agreement.

Commenting on the strike, a spokesman for the Bank of Israel said the supervisor of banks would not intervene.

The government last month published a tender for the purchase of a controlling stake in Discount Bank. However, the power struggle in the bank is not expected to affect potential buyers.

Treasury officials support breach of Budget Deficit Law

By DAVID HARRIS

As the annual state budget deliberations began in earnest in the Treasury yesterday, senior ministry officials recommended the 1999 package include additional spending, which would necessitate a breach of the Budget Deficit Law, according to a Finance Ministry source.

The law sets out the framework for reducing the budget deficit as a percentage of the gross domestic product (GDP), set to reach 1.5 percent by 2001.

In 1997 the target was set at 2.8% and this year at 2.4%. The law stipulates that in 1999 the deficit should be 2% of GDP.

To meet these targets, ministries must tighten their belts to reduce overall government expenditure. The problem this year is compounded by the ongoing shortfall in tax revenues, particularly in the construction industry, which has been seriously affected by the economic slowdown.

"There are various opinions, with some favor-

ing leaving the deficit at 2.4% and others suggesting a compromise at 2.2%," said the ministry official, who declined to be named.

"This idea was not raised in today's discussion," said ministry spokesman Eli Yosef.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman has committed himself on several occasions to cutting the budget deficit to 2% next year and to 1.5% by 2001.

Since the present government came into power it has made several cuts to the state budget, despite opposition from various lobbies and MKs across the political spectrum.

As a result the 1997 budget deficit fell within the target, which was set at NIS 9.744 billion (excluding granted net credit). This year, the deficit has to be cut to NIS 9.192b. (excluding granted net credit). During the first half, the deficit totaled NIS 5.466b.

With unemployment on the rise (one senior government official this week predicted an unemployment rate of 9.5%-9.6% by year's end), the Treasury is seeking ways to halt the slowdown, allow for lower interest rates and

increase industrial production and exports.

Some senior Treasury officials believe this can be achieved by increasing expenditure, particularly on infrastructure projects.

However, state budget director David Milgrom is currently working a series of proposals for increasing private sector spending on infrastructure - a package that would make it unnecessary for the government to increase its budget deficit.

The program is likely to be submitted to the Knesset in the fall as part of the budget arrangements bill, which will accompany the annual budget proposals.

Yesterday, Neeman hosted his first talks on the 1999 budget, according to Yosef. Until now, preliminary discussions were held under the chairmanship of both Milgrom and Treasury Director-General Ben-Zion Zilberfarb.

Yesterday's meeting largely concentrated on the general issues of income, expenditure and the budget deficit.

The full proposals are scheduled to be presented to the cabinet on August 10 and 11.

Glaxo sues Teva over antidepressant pill

By DAN GERSTENFELD
and news agencies

Glaxo Wellcome Inc., a US unit of the world's second-biggest drug company, has sued a US subsidiary of Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, claiming it is using patented Glaxo technology to make antidepressant pills.

In a suit filed Tuesday in the US District Court in Wilmington, Delaware, Glaxo Wellcome Plc's North Carolina subsidiary contends Teva Pharmaceutical U.S.A. plans to sell drugs that use Glaxo's patented method to make an anti-

depressant medicine that stays potent longer on shelves.

Officials at Israel's largest drug maker said they had anticipated such a claim.

Dr. Yehudeh Livneh, director of Teva's patent department, said that each time a request for generic approval is filed, the company has to declare that it is not violating any patent.

The patent owner can then sue the requesting company and the US Food and Drug Administration must refrain from approving the generic drug for 30 months or until the legal procedure ends.

"This is a well-known method to prevent other companies from entering the market," Livneh said. "I would have been surprised if Glaxo hadn't sued us."

Citing "imminent harm and loss" from Teva's actions, Glaxo asked to stop Teva from using the technology and to award damages for any of Teva's product "permitted to reach the market."

Glaxo sells the antidepressant under the brand name Wellbutrin. Glaxo spokesman Rick Sluder said the suit was filed because the company "believes Teva plans to market" the drug based on Glaxo's

technology and is seeking FDA approval.

Livneh said, however, that Teva did not violate any patent.

"Glaxo's patent is not over the raw material but the formulation. Our pill is comprised of other materials," he said.

London-based Glaxo Wellcome, vying for the top spot with global drug giant Merck & Co., reported \$13 billion in sales last year, with more than half its sales from Zantac, an anti-ulcer drug.

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Why mortgage rates are rising

COMMENT

Mortgage bankers are often asked how it is that while inflation and prime interest rates are generally on the decline these days, mortgage rates are climbing, from a low of 5 percent just a few months ago to 8% presently.

Indeed, the traditional inflation-indexed, shkel-denominated mortgage has become almost prohibitive.

The Bank of Israel has been using its monetary policy in order to reduce inflation. With the central bank's lending rates, kept relatively high, the consumer prices have plunged as low as 4% per annum - a far cry from the double-digit rates which we were used to in the 1970s.

Now, with inflation all but beaten and the economy experiencing a slowdown, the central bank's tight monetary policy has lost much of its rationale. With elections coming up in the year 2000, it seems unlikely that the government will allow interest rates to remain so high since the easiest way to jump-start the economy is to cut interest rates. The Bank of Israel has been cutting rates for the past half year, and that trend will in all likelihood have to be accelerated eventually.

The best proof of this is the reawakening of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, which has rebounded nicely after years of deep and protracted slumber. Generally, when interest rates decrease, share prices tend to increase. So far this seems to be at least one of the reasons for the equity market's resurgence.

So, should mortgage rates be skyrocketing while general interest rates continue to decline? The answer seems to be affirmative. The mortgage sector in Israel is still somewhat primitive compared to its equivalents abroad. The system in Israel does not allow mortgage banks to raise cash in the traditional method. There is no secondary market which allows us to sell our mortgages and raise cash.

Furthermore, pension funds that generally purchase mortgages are prohibited from such investments and are limited to buying government bonds with guaranteed yields.

Consequently, mortgage banks have two main sources for raising funds to lend out.

First, loans from other commercial banks. But this source

has dried up as the banks have reached their lending limits for that purpose.

Second, the public's savings plans. But while the mortgage banks have come to rely on public deposits, fewer people are willing to opt for long-term, shkel-denominated, inflation-indexed deposits. As a result, mortgage banks have less funds to lend out. This shortage in turn leads to rising interest rates, whether on loans or deposits. The rates offered today, as we said, would not have been imaginable even a few months ago.

So where is all this heading? Is there no end in sight to the spiraling interest rates on mortgages?

Of course there is. At a certain point, the public will find alternative sources of financing to substitute for the standard inflation-linked shkel mortgage. Even today, other options exist, like non-linked, prime-rate based, or forex-denominated mortgages, for instance.

Some contend that this marks the beginning of the end of the arcane system of mortgages.

linkage to the cost of living. While it is probably too early to eulogize the COL mortgages, there is no question that other options will become more popular as interest rates rise.

In other words, first the steady decline of Israeli inflation has resulted in reduced prime rates; then the time-honored indexation system reacted conversely and mortgage rates shot up. Hopefully, the days of the old system are numbered and inflation has been tamed for the foreseeable future.

The writer heads The Bank of Jerusalem's international division.

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NY Times	36.5675	-0.75

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Nokua	83.1875	+0.4375
Nordstrom	37.5	+1.625
Norfolk Southern	29.875	+0.3125
Northeast Util.	16.4375	+0.0625
Northern Telecom	56.375	-0.8125
Novell	13.5	-0.125
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Zichroni for the defense



Zichroni's first accused spy was Shabtai Kalmanovich – convicted in 1987 of spying for the KGB, but released five years later following a persistent campaign.



Convicted nuclear spy Mordechai Vanunu fired Zichroni, suspicious of the attorney's close ties with the security service.



Defending Aryeh Deri in 1993: "Clients want a lawyer who is going to fight for them. The fact that judges will be upset should not bother a lawyer" – Bar-Ilan U. law Prof. Arnold Enker

It's as if the pundits and politicians of the land were unhappily dining on a meager summer diet of lettuce and cucumbers when attorney Amnon Zichroni suddenly served up a big juicy steak.

The temptation was too great and the Zichroni meal of Tel Aviv District Court Judge Amnon Strashnov and young, attractive attorney Pinat Yanai turned into a non-stop feast.

Based on a declaration by Yanai's ex-boyfriend, Zichroni's petition to the High Court of Justice claimed that the allegedly incriminating Strashnov-Yanai relationship justified a retrial for his client, Nachum Manbar.

The move placed Zichroni in a familiar spot – the center of the maelstrom.

Over the past four decades, Zichroni has never hesitated to take on power or antagonize public figures in vigorous defense strategies for clients that have included some of the country's most notorious traitors. Manbar, convicted last month of selling poison gas and chemical weapons material to Iran, is only the latest in the series.

This time, however, respected members of Israel's legal establishment are wondering if Zichroni has gone too far – risking both his reputation and connections he has spent years cultivating.

Antagonizing the entire judicial establishment certainly doesn't bode well for a defense attorney who represents accused spies and traitors, they say.

Several of Zichroni's colleagues say the attorney erred in making strongly-worded and unproven charges against a respected judge in a public petition.

"I think he is risking his reputation and his relationships with judges. He is an establishment figure and has a lot to lose," said fellow litigator Eyal Rosovsky.

"You could see it beginning this week – how all of the heads of the justice system began speaking out against him. I think he has done what he has done with honest intentions, but I feel he made a mistake," Rosovsky added.

"He wrote the petition in a terribly harsh way, without providing sufficient proof to substantiate the allegations. I think that at least he should have gone with softer language."

"It was legitimate of him to call for an investigation into the judge's actions, but then he shouldn't have gone ahead and presented the charges in the petition as if they were hard facts – even if he himself believes that the arguments are the truth."

But others believe that no matter how the chips fall, and whether the story is substantiated or not, Zichroni will only bolster his reputation as an attorney who goes all out for his clients.

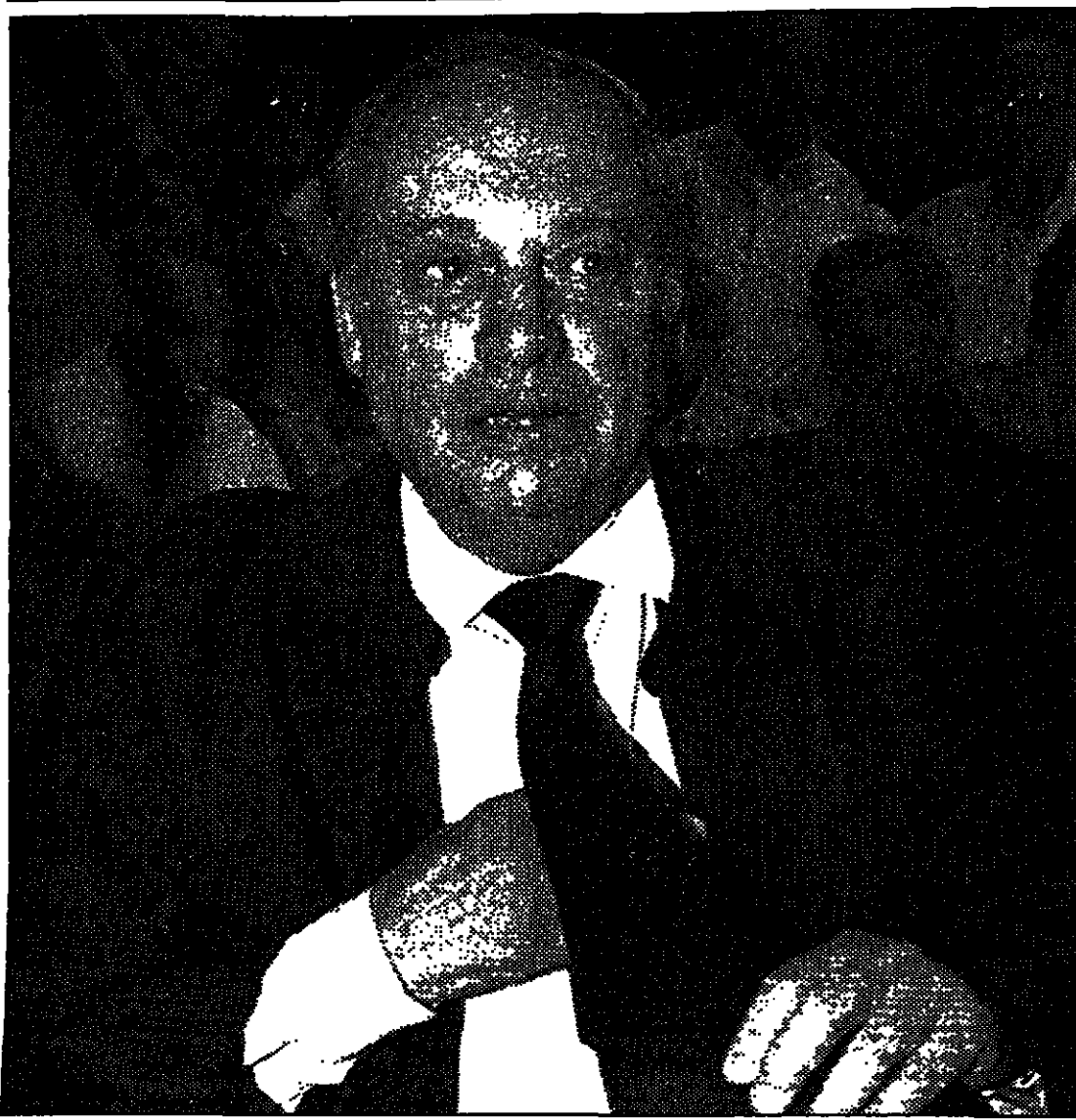
"I think it'll help him as far as future clients go," said Bar-Ilan University law professor Arnold Enker. "Clients want a lawyer who is going to fight for them. The fact that judges will be upset should not bother a lawyer."

"I think what is bothering a lot of attorneys is Zichroni's strategy: he brought the case directly to the High Court of Justice instead of just filing a motion within the courtroom. But Zichroni would not be the first who chose a High Court petition to gain public impact rather than merely narrow legal results."

IN ANY CASE, Zichroni could never be accused of cultivating a low profile.

In the 1950s, Zichroni was one of the IDF's first conscientious

At the heart of Israel's version of the Monica Lewinsky affair stands Amnon Zichroni, a veteran attorney with controversy as a middle name. Allison Kaplan Sommer explores how, if at all, the present imbroglio will affect his career



Zichroni in court on Wednesday. Some members of the legal establishment wonder whether he has gone too far – risking both his reputation and connections he has spent years cultivating. (Reuters)

objectors, refusing to bear a weapon and serving time in prison as a result. He ended up serving as a translator.

In 1960, Zichroni – closely identifying himself with the far-left – founded his law office and served as legal advisor to the Meri (Ha'Olam Hazeh) faction. Though he never made it into the Knesset, he was always outspoken.

When then-prime minister Golda Meir punished foreign minister Abba Eban for criticizing an Israeli military action in 1973, Zichroni said: "Abba Eban stands before Golda Meir like a naughty infant before a kindergarten teacher and has to apologize because he criticized Moshe Dayan. Eban is eating humble pie in order to keep himself a job in the next cabinet."

In the early Eighties, Zichroni shifted away from active party politics and concentrated on developing his legal career.

In 1983, he successfully petitioned the High Court of Justice and forced the Israel Broadcasting Authority to lift a ban on broadcasting interviews with Palestinian supporters of the PLO in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He also served that same year as one of 11 judges sitting at an international hearing on the Lebanon War.

In 1986, he accompanied a left-wing Israeli group to Romania where they met with PLO officials. Zichroni had intended to help the group to circumvent a law against

meeting with the PLO but failed.

Over the years, Zichroni has moved closer to political center, representing politicians in the Labor and Shas parties accused of

wrongdoing and acting as an adviser to David Levy's Geshet Party.

In 1994, however, he caused controversy when he was retained by the Palestinian Authority to

represent the Palestinians in negotiations with Israeli government officials and business interests.

ZICHRONI'S CAREER kicked into high gear when he began defending clients accused of espionage.

His first accused spy Shabtai Kalmanovich, convicted in December 1987 of spying for the KGB and sentenced to years' imprisonment.

Kalmanovich served five and three months before a persistent campaign by Zichroni and quiet negotiations with the authorities paid off. In 1992, Kalmanovich's sentence was muted by president Herzog.

Along the way, Zichroni publicly criticized then-defense minister Yitzhak Rabin for his public remarks on Kalmanovich's case – as slammed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's condemnation of Manbar's trial was still in progress.

In 1988, Rabin praised Kalmanovich's capture and that he believed information the Russian spy had passed to the country had ended up in the hands of Israel's enemies.

Zichroni charged that Rabin "must have forgotten the rule of sub judice."

The convicted Israeli spy Mordechai Vanunu was Zichroni's client for a time.

In March 1987, just days before he was scheduled to go on trial revealing Israeli's nuclear secrets to London's Sunday Times, Vanunu fired Zichroni, suspecting the attorney's close ties with the General Security Service.

Complaining that the attorney not fought aggressively enough to improve his prison conditions, Vanunu also accused Zichroni of close ties to the security community could hurt his reputation.

Zichroni gained access to the military and security circles through his participation in negotiating the release of prisoners of war.

At face value, this would be a conflict of interest.

all, it is the country's security establishment that builds the

against clients like Kalmanovich and Manbar.

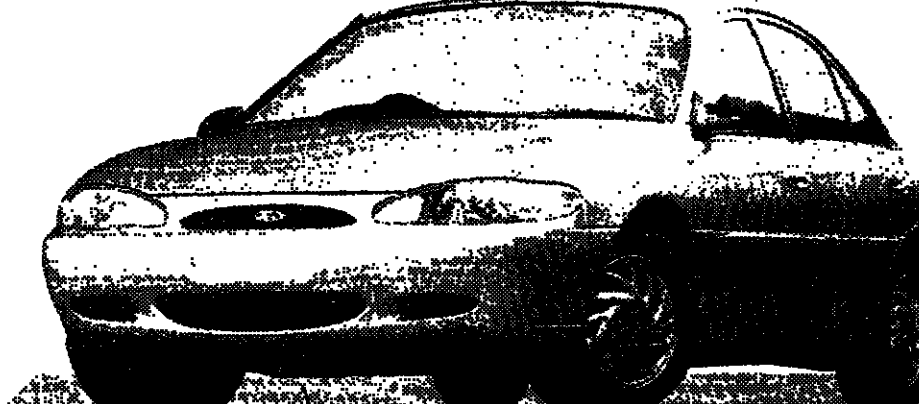
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The code of the bench



Judge Amnon Strashnov

If a police or government investigation finds that Amnon Strashnov had a personal relationship with his former law clerk, attorney Pinat Yanai, and discussed the details of the Nachum Manbar case with her while she was serving on the bench, the judge will be in grave violation of the ethical code.

The current judicial code was drawn up by a special committee and issued by the Supreme Court in 1993. While not legally binding, the rules are accepted norms.

The code calls for a judge to avoid inappropriate behavior in his personal life and to refuse to preside over a trial involving a relative or a friend.

It also warns a judge against showing favoritism or allowing anyone to create the impression that they have a special hold over the bench.

Professor Arnold Enker, who teaches legal ethics at Bar-Ilan University Law School defines

the code of behavior as "a very general standard of avoiding any appearance of a lack of objectivity."

Enker says that there is nothing wrong with a judge's former law clerk appearing before him – "if that were the case," he said, "you'd have to be disqualifying attorneys left and right."

In reality, many judges hear cases presented by attorneys with whom they are friendly, "the idea being that they are capable of exercising proper judgement," Enker says.

What is strictly forbidden is the discussion of a case between the attorney arguing and the judge hearing it, either while the case is pending or while it is in progress, Enker adds.

"Judges are not supposed to hear matters from one or another side outside of the courtroom. The matters are to be raised in court and nowhere else."

— A.K.S.

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Sharansky: Netanyahu's faithful partner

es, the prime minister is sincere about completing the next West Bank pullback soon, the Industry and Trade minister tells Abraham Rabinovich. But Yasser Arafat has yet to lead his people through the painful process of changing their mind-set

It was the 20th anniversary of his sentencing in a Soviet court in trumped-up espionage charges, and Natan Sharansky contrasted that the faith that pinned him in the gulag had not abandoned him.

Defying prevailing skepticism, Industry and Trade minister Natan Sharansky on Wednesday said he was sincere about his intention to complete the pullback from the West Bank, that he wanted to do it soon.

There are few Israeli politicians who would risk their reputations on an unqualified statement of Netanyahu's intentions - and with such a reputation for grit to risk. What adds special luster to Sharansky's appraisal is only his membership in the inner cabinet but a personal friendship with Netanyahu goes back more than a decade.

Sharansky, "More than this, he is to reach it sooner rather than later. His big dream, from long ago, he became prime minister, is Israel will become part of the economy."

In 1986, when I was released from prison, he told me that he had one day been prime minister help to turn the Israeli econo-

my from a grocery to a supermarket. He knows he is limited in what he can do [about the economy] as long as he cannot overcome the problems of the peace process. Besides this, he objectively understands that the peace process is very important."

Sharansky received his visitor in the cubbyhole that serves as his office in the Knesset.

"My office in the ministry is much bigger so it even itself out," he says.

To someone who had not met with him for more than a year, Sharansky seemed far more at ease with his ministerial status. He had just come from an inner cabinet meeting in which the latest developments in the peace process were on the agenda, and his face was flushed and animated.

He spoke expansively, even volubly, and he felt no need to hedge his ministerial observations, as he once might have, with ironic asides. He seemed more comfortable with power but had not lost his geniality. The khaki army cap that he inconspicuously wears, a symbol of neutrality between religious and secular camps, lay at the edge of his desk.

AN AIDE had just reminded him of the sentencing anniversary and he telephoned his 90-year-old mother,



Sharansky, 20 years after his sentencing by a Soviet court: Today it is Arafat who is pronouncing 'Next year in Jerusalem.'

(Flash 90)

Ida, and spoke to her in Russian. "We'll have a party at home tonight," he said when he hung up.

His mother had been outside the Moscow courtroom when he was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment that day 20 years ago, along with Andrei Sarharov and other friends. Sharansky had responded to the sentence with a defiant courtroom speech ending in "Next year

in Jerusalem." On the street outside, his friends sang "Hatikva" as thunder pealed in the background. "It was all simple back then," he said with a laugh.

Today it was Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat who was pronouncing "Next year in Jerusalem" and life, Sharansky admitted, was no longer simple. But not hopeless either.

Israel and the Palestinians had finally reached the endgame on the second-stage pullback, negotiations over which had been slipping out for more than a year. Recent indications from Washington that it would not lay blame on either of the parties if negotiations collapsed - contrary to what it appeared to be signalling earlier - were essential for progress, said Sharansky. Otherwise, Arafat would simply sit back and wait for American pressure on Israel.

Two major issues remain to be resolved, he said - Israel's request that a small part of the 13 percent withdrawal be given a new designation, Area D, in which there would be some limitation on Palestinian rights, and its demand that the Palestinian National Council be convened to abolish parts of the Palestinian Charter calling for Israel's destruction. The latter was more important to him, said Sharansky, than the amount of territory to be given up in the pullback.

"The peace process started with historical concessions by the two sides," he said. "Rabin recognized Arafat as the representative of his people and began negotiations to transfer to the Palestinians control over their own lives. Arafat obligated himself to stop struggling for the destruction of Israel."

"Since then, Israeli society went through a very painful process of

departing from the idea of a Greater Israel. Today only two or three percent of the population still thinks, and I don't know how seriously, of returning to Gaza and Jericho. It is clear that Israeli society has changed and it was an awful tragedy that Rabin had to pay for it with his life."

"But Arafat has to do the same, he has to go through the very painful process of speaking to his people - teachers, journalists - day and night, and explain that 'we are no longer working for the destruction of Israel.' What is important is

important.

"The only way to get the message across quickly, to have it debated within Palestinian society, is to have the PNC convene. There must be a debate in the Palestinian newspapers. The message must be brought to every Palestinian house that there is a change."

Might it not be argued, Sharansky was asked, that the reason for Palestinian antagonism is the policies of the present Israeli government and its unremitting attitude of confrontation with them?

"Again and again I find myself in the position of advocate or spokesman for Bibi. I'm not his spokesman," he declared. He appeared to place himself at an ideological fulcrum point, like his army cap on the table. Half his friends had been estranged by the policies of the previous government, he said, and exactly as many were estranged by the present government.

Netanyahu, he said, has been in an extremely difficult position from the moment of his election. He inherited an agreement he was unhappy with, but committed to. He was attempting to modify that agreement, which meant scaling down Arafat's expectations of receiving 90 percent of the West Bank. At the same time, he was being pulled in opposite directions within the coalition by the right wing and moderates.

"Very often, instead of thinking what will be in a year he has to think what will be next week," Sharansky argued. "That's where many of the doubts about him come from."

Is it not the task of a leader to establish clear priorities rather than a web of ambiguities? "I don't want to be his spokesman," repeated Sharansky. "I'm his partner because I know he wants to come to an agreement."

Once the second pullback is achieved, however, the present government must give way to a national unity government if Israel is to reach a final settlement with the Palestinians, Sharansky believes.

"Socially, Zionistically, historically, it is absolutely important to have a national unity government. Despite all the cynicism in political life, I believe it will come to this." Meanwhile, the region listens for peals of thunder.

"The message must be brought to every Palestinian house that there is change"

not what he says to Clinton or us, but what he says to his own people. "He is not making the effort to lead them through the painful process they must go through. He is still talking about returning to Jaffa and Acre. What is taught in their schools is the same as four years ago."

ARGUMENTS that the PNC has already revoked the offending passages may be as valid, on legal grounds, as the contrary arguments that are being made, Sharansky conceded. "But for me the question is not a legal one. It is a question of whether Palestinian society has internalized the idea that they are not fighting for the destruction of Israel in exactly the same way that we internalized that we are not going to control all the land of Israel and are going to share it with the Palestinians."

"It is precisely because it is so hard for Arafat to convene the PNC on this issue that makes it so

Under the previous Labor government, he responded, Arafat had not been pressed to undertake the internal dialogue needed to change the mind-set of Palestinian society for fear that he was too weak to do so. However, the current government has a different mandate and is insisting that Arafat bite the bullet.

What of the threats by moderate elements within the coalition to pull out if Netanyahu does not strike a deal quickly? It was a shame, said Sharansky, that these ultimatums come just as negotiations have reached a decisive stage and when Arafat "no longer has the luxury of choosing between our proposal and an American proposal." He hopes the ultimatums will disappear "if it is clear that we, the government, are making serious efforts to come to an agreement."

SHARANSKY expressed unease when asked to comment on Netanyahu's personality and policies.

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'The feel of the job'

Ehud Barak's recent bold moves seem to be the Labor leader's belated admission that he can't beat Binyamin Netanyahu on his own, Larry Derfner writes

Are we starting to see a new Ehud Barak? Does the opposition leader realize what many people have already realized: that his performance to date has been mediocre, and that it's time to remake himself? It's easy to read Barak this way, because in the last couple of weeks he has made a number of momentous changes.

He's as much as put the Labor Party's dubs on newly retired chief of general staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak - if and when Shahak decides on a political career.

He's hired Yuval Frenkel and Aliza Goren, two sharp political professionals from the Rabin glory years, to be his chief of staff and media director, respectively. He's also adopted a plainly contemptuous tone toward Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, accusing him in the Knesset of having lost the trust of everyone except his American adviser Arthur Finkelstein.

Coincidentally or not, Barak, for the first time in many months, is leading Netanyahu in most public opinion polls - if only by a percentage point or two.

"Ever since he won the Labor Party (leadership) primaries (13 months ago), Barak has tried to be a one-man show," said Arie Ruttenberg, who was Barak's media adviser during that contest and Yitzhak Rabin's campaign manager in 1992.

"He acted as if he didn't need anybody, and this cost him heavily. He put his foot in his mouth more than once. He alienated many senior figures in the party, so that when the Right said that Barak wasn't suited to be prime minister, a lot of people on the Left would agree."

But after having such a rough time over the last year - and losing his once-commanding lead over Netanyahu in the polls - Barak is now listening to party elders like MKs Avraham Shohat and Uzi Baram, said Ruttenberg.

"His overture to Shahak and hiring of Frenkel and Goren are signals that he's learned he can't unseat Netanyahu strictly on his own," Ruttenberg said.

"Barak's style has become less arrogant; he's showing more maturity and stability as a politician. He thinks twice before he talks," Ruttenberg said, adding, "It's not easy for a man like Barak to concede that he can't win by himself."

This interpretation of Barak's recent actions is not upheld by everyone.

Shohat, one of Barak's earliest backers, said that turning to Shahak, Frenkel and Goren were merely moves aimed at "getting



Political pro Goren: hired (Brian Hendler)

the best people possible." Shohat said his own relations with Barak were "just fine" now. Asked if this marked an improvement, he replied, "That's not important. Everything's fine."

Political commentator Hanan Kristal said he detected no radical departure in Barak's approach, but it did appear the Labor leader was learning from past mistakes, and "beginning to get the feel of the job."

The hiring of Frenkel and Goren, both proven political operators, were indications of this, Kristal said, noting that in the past year Barak had made a number of unsuccessful personnel choices that didn't last long.

IN 1986, Kristal, writing for the now-defunct *Hadashot* newspaper, predicted that the contenders for prime minister in 1996 would be Binyamin Netanyahu, then ambassador to the UN, and Maj.-Gen. Ehud Barak, then OC Central Command.

"Picking Barak was easier than picking Bibi," said Kristal. "I figured that by 1996 Rabin and Peres would be out of the picture and the Labor Party would probably want to go for an IDF chief of staff."

"I thought about who was in line, and Barak was being talked about for the post, so I guessed Barak. But I thought that he would serve his political apprenticeship under Rabin and Peres, and he hasn't had the opportunity. He's gone almost straight from the IDF to being leader of the opposition, and that's not easy. He's made a lot of mistakes."

Barak sacked the office staff of Labor's Tel Aviv headquarters, only to hire them back after the staffers

locked themselves in the building and threatened to blow it up.

He made a complex, qualified statement on TV that if he had been born Palestinian he would have become a terrorist - and discovered that neither the gleeful media nor the outraged public was interested in complexities or qualifiers.

He told settlers in Beit El that he would never give up Beit El or Ofra - a statement, Ruttenberg said, which "alienated the Left and failed to convince the Right."

THE kibbutz-born Barak, 56, is an Israeli aristocrat. A man of vaunted intelligence and ambition, he was groomed to run the IDF, and afterwards the Labor Party.

He seemed to think the prime minister's seat was his almost by right of inheritance, and he became complacent, Ruttenberg said.

After the primary win, he relied for advice chiefly on his brother-in-law, attorney Doron Cohen, to the exclusion of Labor politicians and intellectuals sympathetic to the party.

But after losing his roughly 10 percent lead in the polls to Netanyahu, even while the public was less than enthusiastic about Netanyahu, "Barak realized that if he wanted to be prime minister, he was going to have to fight for it," Ruttenberg said.

This explains the Finkelstein speech, he noted.

A former Barak aide said the opposition leader "used to sit down with sharp minds, people who really had something to contribute, and tell them, 'We need people like you,' and make them think he was hanging on their every word, but right afterwards he'd forget about them."

The former aide said she didn't think Barak's attitude grew out of arrogance, but more out of loss.

"The only person Barak ever looked up to, ever really trusted for advice, was Rabin, and then he found that his mentor was gone," she said.

ONE OF the sharp minds the former aide named as an example is Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the US during the Rabin-Peres government. Rabinovich said he's confident Barak values his advice.

"You're talking to a happy camper," he said. "Barak is willing to listen. We have a very pleasant and effective relationship."

Rabinovich said Barak seemed ready to listen not just to him, but to quite a few people.

"On Sunday afternoon Barak had a two-hour consultation with about 15 people, including myself, and the following night, when he



Barak realizes that if he wants to be prime minister he's going to have to fight for it. (Brian Hendler)

appeared on *Popolitika*, he conveyed many of the ideas that were raised at that meeting."

On *Popolitika*, Barak steered clear of questions about potential competition between him and Shahak, pledged that his bill to draft haredim into the IDF would ultimately pass, and hammered home his theme that "Netanyahu is leading us to disaster."

Yet although he was the lone interviewee on the panel for about 10 minutes and had the show to himself, nobody in the studio audience clapped even once.

Public opinion pollster Dr. Avi

Degani of Geocartography Institute found that while Barak was just noting Netanyahu, 41.3% to 40.9%, Ronni Milo was ahead of the prime minister 41% to 39%, and Shahak was outdistancing Netanyahu, 44% to 33%.

(The last Gallup Poll found Barak leading Netanyahu by 2%, and Dr. Mina Zemah's last survey gave Barak a 3% lead.)

The Labor leader's resurgence in public opinion has less to do with his successes than with Netanyahu's failures, said Kristal.

"I'd say the main reasons for Barak's improved showing are

Netanyahu's [public altercations] with [President Ezer] Weizman and Shahak, and the problems with the second redeployment," he said.

For his own part, Barak has failed to go over with the public because his politics are vague - with the exception of his call for drafting the haredim - and because he has come to be seen as "Bibi-compatible," both politically and personally, said Ruttenberg.

"Barak has to create a clear, consistent agenda, what he's for and what he's against, on the final-status talks with the Palestinians, on the future of the Golan Heights, on

privatization, and on social and economic issues. The only issue he's been unequivocal on is drafting the haredim, and he's benefited from it," Ruttenberg said.

"He's tried to position himself not to the Right and not to the Left, but in the center, and he's ended up being neither here nor there," Ruttenberg continued.

"The worst thing," he stressed, "is that this is the kind of tactic Bibi uses - telling everybody what they want to hear - so Barak started getting tagged with Bibi's image."

"By doing this, Barak lost his biggest advantage - his opponent."

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A house divided

The government tried to steal Ran Cohen's thunder this week by agreeing to sell its stock of public housing at discounts of up to 75 percent.

By midweek, however, it looked like the move, initiated by coalition chairman Meir Sheerit, might fail, as the Meretz MK plowed ahead with a proposal offering public housing residents substantially larger discounts.

The government's regulations are due to take effect no later than October 10. However, if the Knesset passes Cohen's bill, it will supersede the cabinet decision.

Tens of thousands of people, many of them traditional Likud voters, are watching what has become almost a personal duel between the two veteran MKs.

The outcome could affect many of the estimated 100,000 to 120,000 families currently living in public housing. Thousands more, officially eligible for such housing, are waiting on the sidelines because there are no vacant units. They are counting on promises that the revenue from the sale of the existing stock will be used to help them solve their housing problem. Each year, thousands of new families join the waiting list.

Ask the interested parties in the dispute when the current crisis over public housing began, and they will cite different dates. For Cohen, it began last year, when the Likud government announced it would examine the possibility of selling off the public housing stock to private investors.

That decision evoked an outcry from residents of the public housing units and grass roots organizations working in the city slums. Some of these organizations were already involved in the fight to allow parents to bequeath their rights to an apartment to their children.

But it was the government's decision that galvanized Cohen into action.

Ask Sheerit when the crisis began, and he will tell you it started on March 20, 1994. That's when Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer (Labor) announced the end of a policy initiated by the Likud to sell public housing units to their occupants at half their market value.

SHEERIT readily admits that Cohen was the "trigger" that led to Sunday's cabinet decision to sell off the units at even bigger discounts. But given the fact that Meretz was part of the government that halted the discount program, he is suspicious of Cohen's motives.

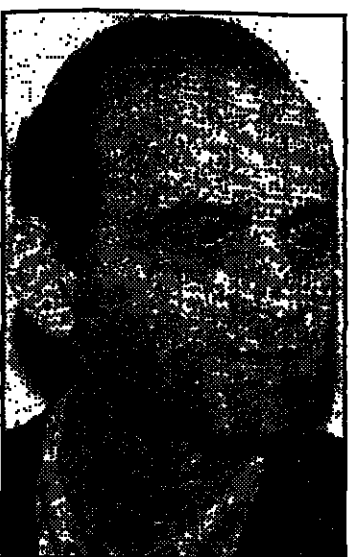
"I didn't hear Meretz yelling when Ben-Eliezer abolished the discount," said Sheerit. "Suddenly, the opposition has discovered the weak [segments of society]. What they really wanted was to make political capital out of the issue."

"That's fair enough. The trouble is that their proposal is irresponsible. Where do they think the money will come from?"

Cohen's proposal includes the following elements:

- Residents will be eligible for a maximum discount of 85 percent

The government's decision this week to sell public housing at significant discounts has rekindled a feud between MKs Ran Cohen and Meir Sheerit. Dan Izenberg looks behind the anger at their respective proposals



Cohen claims the government distorted his bill



Sheerit says Cohen's bill is short on social justice

(90% for those suffering 100% disability) for apartments valued at up to NIS 580,000. Occupants will have to pay in full for the balance of any apartment worth more.

The discount will be based solely on the number of years of occupancy. Occupants will receive a 4% discount each year for the first 10 years (5% for the disabled), 3% for the next 10 years (4% for the disabled) and 2% for additional years (3% for the disabled), up to a total of 28 years.

- Residents who are entitled to a Housing Ministry mortgage will maintain that right.

- Sheerit's proposal: Residents living along the northern border and areas of national priority will be eligible for maximum discounts of 75% percent for apartments valued up to NIS 300,000. Residents in the rest of the country will be entitled to discounts of up to 70%.

Occupants will have to pay in full for the balance of any apartment worth more than NIS 300,000.

The discount will be based on several factors:

- Location: Northern border residents will receive a grant of NIS 20,000. Those living in national priority "A" areas will receive NIS 15,000, and those in national priority "B" NIS 10,000.

- Personal eligibility: Each family member will receive NIS 2,250 per person per year of residence.

- Up-front payment: Residents of

the northern border and areas of national priority will receive a 30% discount on their share of the cost (apartment price minus discounts) if they pay up front. Other residents will receive a 25% discount.

Assessment of the apartment: The state will deduct 20% from the assessed value of all apartments.

- Housing Ministry mortgages for such apartments will be canceled.

At first glance it may be difficult to decipher the practical implications of the two proposals. But hearing the criticism Cohen and Sheerit have heaped on each other helps clarify the picture.

"Cohen's bill means the elimination of the entire public housing stock because everything will be sold," said Sheerit. "It does not establish just criteria."

"For example, if a family living in Jerusalem and eligible for the full 85% discount lives in an apartment worth NIS 580,000, they will receive a discount of NIS 493,000. The same family living in Yeroham or Kiryat Shmona in a flat worth NIS 230,000 will receive a discount of NIS 195,000."

"This is not social justice. With Cohen's proposal, the stronger population in the city will receive more money than those living in the periphery."

Sheerit added that Cohen's proposal would cost the government billions of shekels.

"Cohen said the money would come from the state budget. Where does he expect to take it from - security, education, health?"

Cohen attacked Sheerit's proposal in reverse.

"The government's proposal adopted part of my bill, the part that deals with the development towns and northern border settlements," he said. "It ruined the part of my legislation dealing with the poor neighborhoods in the center of the country."

"The government regulations are particularly beneficial to families with lots of children," said Cohen. "Young families with only one or two children, or elderly couples without children living at home will not be able to purchase their homes."

"For example, a couple without children who have lived in their apartment for 25 years will receive only NIS 112,000. If their apartment is worth NIS 192,000, they will still have to make up NIS 80,000, and they will not be eligible for a mortgage. If they live in Jerusalem, their apartment will cost them a lot more."

"The only residents who will be able to purchase their apartments are those living in the periphery, haredim and those living in the territories," Cohen summed up. He counted city dwellers, new immigrants, single-parent families, and the elderly among the victims of the new government regulations.

SHEERIT said that the urban residents' situation was not as bad as Cohen made out. "Let's take a typical Jerusalem family," he said. "Three people living in a flat for 25 years. They are entitled to NIS 170,000."

"Let's say their apartment is assessed at NIS 440,000. After the 20% deduction, it will be sold to them for NIS 352,000. That means they must pay NIS 182,000 out of their own pocket."

"If they pay up front, they receive another 25% off. That means they owe NIS 136,000 - less than \$40,000. If they can't raise that sum, they shouldn't buy."

"I don't accept the 'I have it coming to me' attitude," Sheerit said. "People must make an effort. If we didn't believe that, we would give everything away for free."

"If a person has to sweat for something, he will appreciate it and take care of it. Otherwise you turn him into a charity case."

Sheerit said that since Sunday, when he steered his proposal through the cabinet, his office has been flooded with phone calls from grateful public housing residents all over the country. However, the coalition of advocacy organizations which teamed up to lobby for Cohen's bill is furious with him.

"It is not by coincidence that the government approved the regulations on the 17th of Tamuz, the date of the beginning of the destruction of Jerusalem," said Shlomo Vazana, a member of the Mizrahi organization Keshet, and an activist in Jerusalem's Katamonim neighborhood.

"The Likud government committed an absolutely immoral act.



Jerusalem's Katamonim neighborhood: The sale of public housing has degenerated into a virtual duel between two veteran MKs. (Brim Handler)

It will be destroyed over the public housing issue. These regulations are a continuation of the government's repressive policies.

But Sheerit has more immediate worries. "Earlier this week, he was certain the entire coalition would

opposition. Vaknin disagreed with Sheerit's premise that the public housing residents in the cities did not deserve as much help as those in the periphery.

"The government will have to solve the problem of the disabled and those living in the cities," he declared after the vote. "There are slum dwellers who are worse off than those in the development towns."

If Vaknin and his nine party colleagues follow suit in the plenum, Cohen's bill will pass - and the government will suffer one of the most serious, if not the most serious, setbacks since it came to power.

"It's no coincidence the government approved the regulations on the fast day of the 17th of Tamuz - the day that marked the beginning of the destruction of Jerusalem"

— Shlomo Vazana, Katamonim activist

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Night moves

When Arie O'Sullivan joined a crack Givati demolition team in the final week of their grueling 20-month training course he learned what keeps them going



Tal Bachar (left) puts on a night-scope before the operation. The IDF has invested heavily in night-vision equipment, exploiting any edge it can get over Arab armies.

It's 01:58. It is Tal Bachar's turn to lead his 19-man, explosive-laden squad through the bush. The mission: to capture and destroy a 20-meter tall, guarded watch tower.

But Bachar, tired out, has strayed off track in the darkness. When he finally locates the tower with his night vision scope he discovers it is further to the north than he anticipated. And worse yet, a full yellow moon has started to rise, exposing his exhausted men. They shuffle on.

Twenty-four minutes later and 300 meters from the tower, Tal splits his force and leads a small group to the ravine. Those left behind promptly drop to the ground to provide cover fire, aiming their guns as they fight off sleep.

For the past three days, the members of this Givati Brigade's demolition company have meandered their way northward from the Negev in the culminating week of their 20-month training course which transforms them from fresh recruits to an IDF special forces unit.

Along the way, they have blown up bridges, ambushed armored vehicles, laid down some mine fields and ripped up others. By the time this night is over they will have come 140 kilometers, leaving a "wounded" soldier on a stretcher for the last 20.

The IDF prides itself on its great night fighters. Its doctrine is one of continuous warfare, with offensive operations preferably scheduled for after sundown and before the moon rises.

The IDF, aware of the fact that the Arab armies are blind at night, has invested heavily in night-vision equipment - exploiting any edge it can get.

"This is our advantage over other armies. Also, night training is a better test of skills like navigation," said company commander Maj. Ronen. He added that the hot July days were unbearable, that training at midday could even be dangerous.

The brigade demolition company, known in Hebrew as *palhan*, has teams of 13 to 20 fighters, depending on how many drop out along the way. In wartime, the company's job is similar to that of combat engineers - blasting away obstacles in the brigade's path, or wreaking havoc to enemy bridges, forts and even dams.

Like the reconnaissance and anti-tank companies, the demolition company draws on the best recruits, putting them through a severe selection process before they are chosen for the 20-month course.

The 20-month course is a grueling one. It includes physical training, marksmanship, and a variety of other challenges. The team's lieutenant is Assaf Cohen, a 22-year-old from

Kfar Sava who took command of 24 young men the day they were drafted.

That was back in the fall of 1996, when Damascus mysteriously moved two more divisions onto the Golan Heights, raising the probability of war to its highest level in 15 years. Since then, the Syrian threat has subsided and Cohen's team is down to an intimate and highly trained group of 19.

Earlier in the night, the team came down the road less stealthily than expected - but they've not had a full night sleep for three days. They trudge along the wadi, sweeping a pass in the hills for the best spot to mine.

With half the squad giving cover fire, the others expertly stretch out a white ribbon marking out just where to lay the 13-kilo anti-tank mines and tiny anti-personnel mines.

Each soldier tries to perform his task silently but Lt. Dolev, the company training officer, is not happy with the noise they are making.

And, hugging mines filled with cement instead of TNT, the soldiers are finding it difficult to maintain the illusion of a real battle.

These soldiers have all seen at least one tour in Lebanon. Most know what it is like to be under mortar fire. But, contrary to popular belief, armed clashes with Hizbullah guerrillas are not commonplace, and none has been involved in a firefight - not even the officers.

The unit has lost 15 soldiers since it was formed with Givati in 1983, the last one in 1995. As a top unit, they are slated to return to one of the most active outposts in south Lebanon in the future.

But as the brigade demolition unit their expertise will only manifest itself in war. They are the frontline spearhead of one of the IDF's four regular infantry brigades. Together with the combat engineers they will break through the obstacles and barriers on the battlefield.

It won't be a pretty picture. "You know, people joke about how many seconds a demolition man will survive in the next war," says Lt. Dolev. "But right here, right now, nobody is thinking about that. They are thinking about being with their mates. Making the team."

"What keeps these guys going is their small unit. We are like a family. No one wants to let the others down."

If, in the old days, elite IDF units were the exclusive territory of the kibbutzniks and later the knitted-kippa youth, Cohen's unit seems to represent every ethnic Jewish group in the country, and beyond.

There is the taciturn Daniel, a Jewish convert who immigrated in 1994 from northern India. For more

than a year his fellow soldiers believed the Oriental-looking young man was from Thailand.

"Why am I here? Why, Zionism of course," he says as he prepares his gear for the next mission. "I also like to blow things up."

Then there is Yitzhak. At 1.4 meters, the compact Ethiopian immigrant is one of the unit's powerhouses. After walking all the way from Gondar to the Promised Land seven years ago, for him 140 kilometers is a piece of cake. The 23-year-old sees the crack Givati demolition company as his entry ticket to Israeli society.

"I'm proud of the unit, and that's why I'm here," he says. "It's hard, for sure."

There is also Igor from Russia, Anthony from France, Tal from Jerusalem, and Moran from Ezer Yehuda.

Group members hail from both development towns and exclusive neighborhoods. There's one kib-

butznik and three observant soldiers. It's a casting director's dream. By this time the team has gone through basic training, advanced

The demolition company draws on the best recruits, putting them through a severe selection process before they are chosen for the 20-month course

training, two demolition courses, a squad commander's course and served in Lebanon. For the past five weeks, its members have been hon-

ing their skills.

This week is their ultimate test. Each has a mission. They eat battle rations. They sleep like cats: 20 minutes here, an hour there.

"I want it to be hard for them. Not because I'm wicked or want them to suffer, but to train them well," says Maj. Ronen, the CO. "The most difficult thing for a soldier is the uncertainty; not knowing when the exercise will end, when you will finally be able to sleep, when it will all be over."

"This week is their most difficult because I make sure they don't know what happens next."

Ronen said that if soldiers had to choose between uncertainty and adding another 30 kilometers to their march, they would choose the extra marching.

"We walk, walk, walk. But it doesn't matter how far we have come. What matters is how far we have to go," mumbles a soldier called Gad as the unit moves out on

its next mission after breaking for 15 minutes to fill canteens and pick up new packs, some weighing over 30 kilos.

MOST say they have personal reasons for joining the demolition unit. They want to prove something to themselves, earn the coveted demolition pin, blow things up. Besides Daniel, the Indian immigrant, none uttered the "Z" word [Zionism].

They don't give the appearance of marching through the night, charging targets, risking their lives because they feel their way is right, that justice is on their side, for Zionism.

They are there, pushing each other and drawing on their last grains of energy because they don't want to disappoint their fellow unit members. The glory of the unit dwarfs the glory of the state.

But "no one has to teach them about Zionism," says Maj. Ronen. "Even if they don't utter the word, I see it. I see it in the way they perform in Lebanon. These soldiers have been and will soon be returning to a 'hot' outpost deep inside the security zone, for the most difficult missions."

"They are doing it out of a love for the Land. They are always pushing for more operations. Just tell them there are terrorists there, and they'll want to go after them and kill them."

Moran David, John Lemon glasses strapped to his fuzzy head, says he was drawn to the unit because it "sounded interesting." Mines and demolitions. It's attractive.

"And the guys, we are like brothers. We can read each other's minds."

The unit's closeness has come to substitute the warm embrace of those left at home.

"We have a saying here," says Lt. Dolev. "No girlfriend ever finishes the course."

"These guys are giving up a lot to be in this unit. They have no social life, to speak of. When they do get home, they are too tired to do anything. The only ones who have girlfriends are those who came with [a steady girlfriend] before. It's rare for relationships to last."

Israeli combat troops are hardly the hard-drinking, whore-mongering, tattooed combatants so familiar to other armies. They'd prefer an ice cream over a shot of whiskey. When Cohen's unit finally reaches the Givati base at Metzudat Yoav, it will be moms and dads with picnic baskets waiting for them, not kegs of beer and cheerleaders.

"What's helping me get through this final week? Knowing that I'm going to get the pin in the end," says Moran.

A simple pin?

"No, the pin is just a symbol. It's

looking back and seeing how you've gone through 20 difficult months - and now you are ready to become a member of the Palhan, and not just some misfit outfit."

Tal Bachar has just started his assigned mission. He goes through a list to make sure everyone is equipped. He checks his Litton night scope.

"Certainly I'd prefer this to be a real raid - perhaps in the future. Meanwhile, I try to force myself to imagine it's for real tonight," Tal says.

"We are very tired. We slept a couple of hours this afternoon after we walked all night. We have a long night ahead of us, and a long day after that. Tomorrow afternoon we go on a 20-kilometer stretcher march, and then it's over. Then it just begins."

At 01:06 the unit is moving through freshly cut wheat fields and crosses a ravine - a musty smell mixes with the fragrance of a crushed zaatar bush. The sky is filled with countless stars and the Milky Way shines brightly. To the left are the remnants of the old Turkish railway line, the ancient Tel Najila, an old tamarisk tree. The lights of the settlements twinkle on the horizon, a lone truck speeds south along the Beersheba highway.

It is doubtful whether 19 tired fighters notice any of these splendid sights. All they want is to crawl up in a sleeping bag, close their eyes and finally sleep, sleep, sleep.

"What are you looking at? Get down!" Lt. Cohen shouts at a soldier swaying back and forth instead of hitting the dirt with the rest of the platoon as Tal takes his coordinates.

Tal clicks his tongue, the signal to move on. One soldier doesn't move. His mates kick him up. They continue.

"I'm thinking of the mission," says a soldier.

"I'm thinking of the pin," says another.

"I'm thinking of my mother's cooking," whispers a third.

Now that the force is exposed by the moonlight, the tower guard spots them earlier than expected and opens fire. One soldier is "hit." The rest charge and conquer the tower.

In minutes, the demolitions are laid and the unit simulates the tower's destruction.

The wounded soldier is placed on a stretcher, and the brigade retreats back into the bush to regroup and set out for the next mission.

"I am their father and their mother," says Cohen. "I've known them from the day they were drafted. They didn't know what a weapon was. Now they're finishing the course as sergeants who know how to fight."

"I'm very proud of them."

Return to sender

In early 1997, Israel began to get intelligence reports of an accelerated Iranian effort to develop an intermediate-range ballistic missile that could strike Israel. The project was receiving significant help from Russia and some aid from China. The missile was called Shihab-3.

As the intelligence analysts scratched their heads to understand Iran's intentions, government scientists realized that the Shihab-3 was meant to do more than just reach Israel. It was meant to overcome the Arrow anti-ballistic missile defense system, developed largely to defend against the Iraqi Scud-Bs fired during the 1991 Gulf War.

The scientists went back to the drawing board and decided Israel needed more Arrow batteries, and quickly. The result was an Israeli request, which the US accepted, for a third Arrow missile battery at a cost of \$80 million.

Now, as the paperwork for the third Arrow battery is proceeding through Washington, Israel is encountering yet another development. Western and Israeli intelligence agencies report that Iran is completing development of the Shihab-3 and is hard at work on another missile, the Shihab-4, with an estimated range of 2,000 kilometers.

The Shihab-4 is based on the Soviet SS-4 missile, a weapon far more sophisticated than the Shihab-3, which is largely a product of North Korean technology.

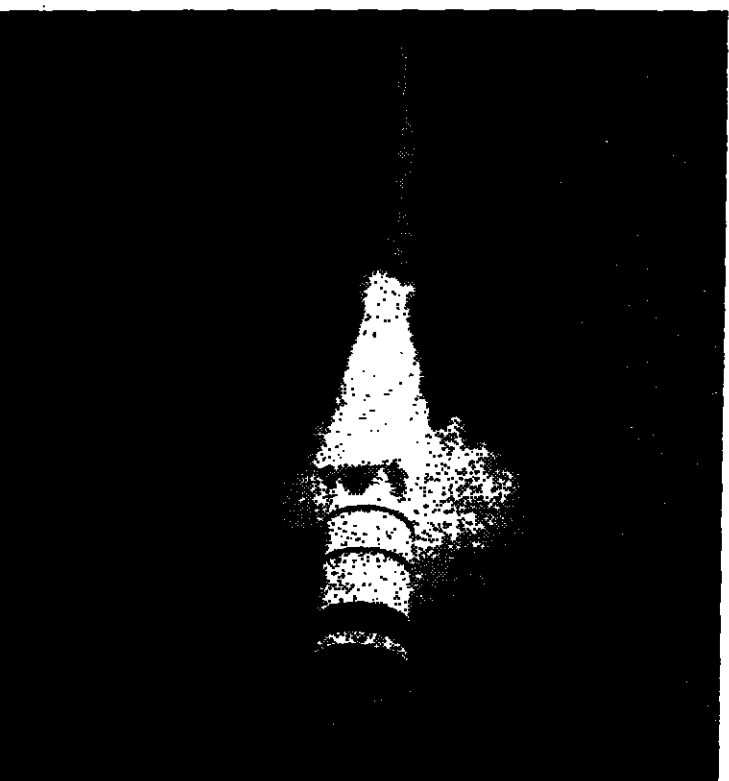
As a result, one year before Israel is to begin partial deployment of its highly-touted Arrow anti-missile system, defense officials are quietly coming to the realization that they will quickly need a lot more protection from enemy ballistic missiles.

The question is, what kind? The answer being proposed is a system that can destroy an enemy missile in its initial stage of launch, when the rocket is being accelerated by its rocket motor and is at its slowest and most vulnerable.

The missile is easier to intercept and any nonconventional warhead it contains - from chemical to nuclear - will explode in enemy territory. The destruction of such a successful system would be astounding.

"At the boost phase the ballistic missile is a large, visible and vulnerable target, making interception extremely difficult," writes Moshe Guelman, director of the Defense's Space Research

The BPI anti-missile system would kill an enemy projectile in its early stage of launch, dumping the missile's lethal payload back on the enemy. Conceptually brilliant, it poses a technological and financial challenge. Steve Rodan reports



The Arrow: A year before its scheduled deployment, defense officials are realizing they will need additional systems to foil enemy ballistic missiles.

Institute, in a forthcoming book on theater ballistic missiles to be published by the London-based Brassey's for the Ariel Center for Policy Research.

"Dynamically, it has a very definite behavior pattern, without any random maneuvers. Destroying the ascending missile in its boost phase, before it dispenses its warheads and decoys, dramatically simplifies the lethality challenge."

The concept is called Boost Phase Intercept and over the last five years Israel and the US have invested \$30m in various feasibility studies.

In Congress, BPI will get another \$10m. in fiscal 1999 but in Israel defense officials will have to decide whether to enter a development program that could cost initially \$200m. and end up with a price tag of up to 10 times that amount.

The project aims to be a new element in Israel's concept of multi-layered defense against ballistic missiles in a project entitled Israel Boost-phase Intercept System (IBIS).

OFFICIALS here and in the US agree that the BPI concept is still in the planning stages. A nation spots preparations by an enemy to fire ballistic missiles.

The defender sends aircraft to the area and waits for the launch. When the enemy missile is launched the planes fire a projectile or laser to destroy the missile. The more formidable the enemy warhead, the more damage sustained by the enemy.

If the BPI option fails, then Israel can use the Arrow interceptor to destroy the incoming missile, which by this time would be near or on Israeli territory. If the Arrow misses then special anti-missile guns - the development of which is far from complete - would protect strategic sites such as power plants and air force bases.

"If there is any option for deterrence, having the ability to destroy missiles in enemy territory is the one option that can solve most of the problem," said David Ivry, senior adviser to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, in an address to the Israel Air Force conference early this month.

Ivry called on the air force to invest heavily in BPI.

"The more we develop this, the better it will be for the future," he said.

Ivry heads a Defense Ministry effort to draft a new national security doctrine, to deal with new enemy threats such as intermediate-range ballistic missiles and nonconventional weapons.

Later, a senior Israeli official said. "The concept of BPI has the agreement of most experts. It does not have the conceptual opposition that the Arrow had. The problem is, how do you translate it into a system?"

US Air Force Lt. Gen. Lester Lyles, director of the US Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, agrees.

"We are doing a conceptual design of BPI," he said during a visit to Israel early this month. "The concept is what we all believe in. How do you do it - by laser or kinetic energy? I think any one of them is viable and we have to figure out the path."

"For us, it's ABL [Air Borne Laser]. Israel is looking at IBIS. In the future, I can see where the US might have both. It's part of a tiered-layered capability. We feel that to counter the ballistic missile threat you have to have a multi-layered system."

THE MOST important question is what do you use to kill the enemy missile?

See SENDER, Page 18



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3:30 p.m. Halachic Challenges in Performing Weddings for Secular Couples
Haran: Yaakov Ariel, Chief Rabbi, Ramat Gan
4:30 p.m. Panel Discussion: "Making the Marriage Process Meaningful" (Hebrew/English)
Rav David Stav, Chairman, Tzohar
Rav Aharon Adler, Beit Knesset Nave Orot, Ramat
Ms. Judy Cooper, Teacher of Secular Brides
Ms. Tova Leah Nachmani, Educator, Livnot U'Lebanot
Audience Questions and Participation

5:45 p.m. Supper

6:30 p.m. Workshops: Practical Applications and Ramifications

Rav David Stav

Ms. Judy Cooper and Ms. Tova Leah Nachmani

7:30 p.m. Concluding Remarks

Rav Chanoch Yerus, Beit Knesset Yemin Moshe

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

YOM IVRY

ON MEDICINE AND HALACHAH:

A Review of Current Challenges

3:00 p.m. Tefilat Mincha and Registration
3:30 p.m. A Study of Medical and Technological Advances in the Reproductive Process: The Ethical and Halachic Implications for the Jewish Family
Rav Moshe D. Tendler, Ph.D., Yeshiva University

4:30 p.m. Decision Making in the Face of Death: Contrasting Contemporary Views on End-of-Life Treatment
Prof. Charles Sprung, MD, Hadassah - Ein Kerem

Audience Questions and Participation

5:45 p.m. Supper

6:30 p.m. Heresh: Contemporary Halachic Thinking

Rav Aharon Adler, Beit Knesset Nave Orot, Ramat

7:30 p.m. Concluding Remarks

Rav Chanoch Yerus, Beit Knesset Yemin Moshe

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POB 3302, Tel Aviv 61032

Interviews will be held in Israel during September, 1998.

SENDER

Continued from Page 17

The US plans to sink billions of dollars into a high-powered laser that can be beamed from a Boeing AWACs jet and destroy the enemy missile during the first minutes of launch. It's a great concept on paper, but the technology has yet to prove itself.

Israel is heading in a different direction. Its researchers are working on unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) that would buzz high in the sky near enemy missile batteries. When the enemy launches its missiles, the UAVs would fire tiny but lethal rockets toward the warheads.

Take the following scenario: Syria is believed to be ready to attack Israel with its arsenal of about 1,000 Scud-C missiles, which according to Israeli intelligence sources can now be outfitted with chemical warheads.

Israel sends dozens of UAVs to the Golan Heights, over the eastern Mediterranean and perhaps to other border areas to monitor Syrian missile activity.

The UAVs, which Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd. seeks to develop, track the entry of enemy missile batteries from an altitude of some 60,000 feet. The UAVs can remain operational for at least 24 hours and the dozens of aircraft allow them to work in shifts and thus cover the area for long periods of time.

The UAVs are directed by a command-and-control system developed by Tadiran Electronics Ltd., and the aircraft, in turn, feed a search and track system that scans the area to determine whether the enemy is firing a real missile or a decoy.

If the missile is heading toward Israel, the system decides which UAV will fire its interceptor. The UAV then fires a tiny missile — already being developed by the Israel Armament Development Authority (Rafael) in a project called Missile Optimized Anti-Ballistic Missile System (MOAB) — toward the enemy rocket, which

at the first stage of launch is straining its engines as it approaches the atmosphere.

The Israeli missile hits the enemy rocket in its motor or fuel tanks and the resulting explosion destroys the entire projectile — warhead and all — near the Syrian position.

ON paper, the concept appears more feasible and cheaper than laser. But even the most ardent supporters of BPL, whether in the Defense Ministry or in the defense industries, acknowledge that much can go wrong.

First, they point to the concept itself. The UAV is meant to fly unimpeded at altitudes of 60-70,000 feet above or near enemy positions. How effective will these UAVs be the minute Syria or some other regional enemy acquires radar and surface-to-air missiles with the ability to destroy the Israeli aircraft?

Syria is already negotiating for the Russian-made advanced S-300 anti-aircraft system and its radar has a powerful range that Israeli experts believe can eventually be upgraded to spot high-altitude UAVs.

"At that point, that's the end of the entire UAV concept," a senior defense source said.

Another question: Can the missile fired by the UAV reach the enemy projectile before it enters the atmosphere and becomes extremely difficult to detect?

The boost phase lasts perhaps 30-75 seconds, depending on the type of missile fired. This means that the UAV must find the enemy missile launch, obtain the go-ahead, fire its interceptor and have it reach the target within seconds.

In an article that will appear in the Ariel Center's book, the head of the MOAB program, a Rafael official identified only as D.R., says the question of the interceptor's speed and operational range is a key problem.

"The interceptor must reach the TBM [theater ballistic missile] before it enters its ballistic stage," he writes. "This constrains the free flight time of the interceptor to only some dozens of seconds,

depending on the time spent on the detection process by the UAV's instrumentation."

LITTLE wonder then, that despite the Israeli project, which began in 1995, Defense Ministry officials are closely following the US model of BPL.

In this model, there will be no UAVs or missiles. Instead, a Boeing 747 with early-warning capability and linked to reconnaissance satellites will be tracking enemy ballistic missiles sites from a range of between 200 to 400 kilometers.

When the satellite detects a launch, it will communicate the information to the aircraft. The pilot will then activate a laser that will lock on to the enemy missile and burn it up.

Lyles, the director of the US Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, believes the idea is sound. By 2006, such a system will be ready for production.

"I personally feel very confident about ABL," Lyles said. "I'm very familiar with the technology and the contractors involved."

"ABL is a revolutionary concept. It no longer depends on a body-to-body hit. I feel we should always be looking forward to new concepts. I think it will have its bugs but we'll make it [work]."

"It will revolutionize not only theater missiles defense but also air-to-air warfare. We're developing it in stages. I am very confident."

But both Israeli and US analysts agree that ABL's technological problems are even more formidable than those of MOAB. The survivability of a Boeing 747 is not much better than that of a UAV. Both aircraft are forced to circle over their targets for long periods of time and even Stealth technology cannot keep them off enemy radar for long.

The bigger question is whether a high-energy laser beam sent from a range of 400 kilometers can destroy a Scud-class missile. Such a chemical oxygen-iodine laser would demand an incredible amount of energy and the beam

would have to remain on target long enough to pierce the skin of the enemy missile, causing the missile to disintegrate.

Countermeasures are readily available. The Scud missiles can be coated with reflective materials, for example, that would deflect the energy of the laser beam by 90 percent.

"The technology for this is simple, cheap and easily available," writes Arieh Stav, acting director of the Ariel Center, in an article that will appear in the book on ballistic missiles. "On the other hand, an increase of 900 percent in the quantity of energy of the laser beam sent to a range of 400 km. requires futuristic technology bordering on a conceptual revolution in the ABL project."

An ABL prototype is to be tested in 2002, assuming that the project remains on schedule. The US Air Force program is estimated at \$11 billion, \$292m. of which is being requested by the Pentagon for fiscal 1999. The contract includes the giants of US industry, such as Boeing, TRW Inc. and Lockheed Martin.

ISRAEL is believed to be ahead of the US in the technological development of BPL. But in a review of Israel's ballistic missile defense programs held last fall, senior defense officials agreed that the government can simply not afford to fund two major programs simultaneously.

They pointed out that close to \$5b. will be needed over the next few years for the acquisition of new US fighter aircraft, helicopters and the Israeli development and production of tanks.

Since the review, the Defense Ministry has agreed to provide hundreds of millions of dollars to other R&D programs. This includes the second phase of the Ofek reconnaissance satellite program. The goal is to launch another satellite within the next year to augment or replace Ofek 3.

At a time when Syria and Iran are developing their missile and nonconventional weapons pro-

grams, Israel has made space reconnaissance a priority.

"You cannot believe how strapped we are for cash," a senior defense source said. "If there are increases in the defense budget, there will be more money for BPL. If not, there are simply other priorities that come before this program."

The budget struggle is making some government strategists uneasy. With limited funds, they ask, how valuable is the huge Israeli investment in anti-missile defense programs?

The Arrow program, with the additional of a third battery, is expected to reach a cost of \$2b. US and Israeli officials say the BPL program based on UAVs and missiles may end up costing nearly as much.

Will that amount of money buy Israel an effective, if not total, defense against enemy ballistic missiles? More important, they ask, will such programs deter enemy countries from firing their missiles toward Israel?

MAJ.-GEN. (res.) Yisrael Tal, developer of the Merkava tank and a senior adviser at the Defense Ministry, supports the current review of Israel's national security doctrine.

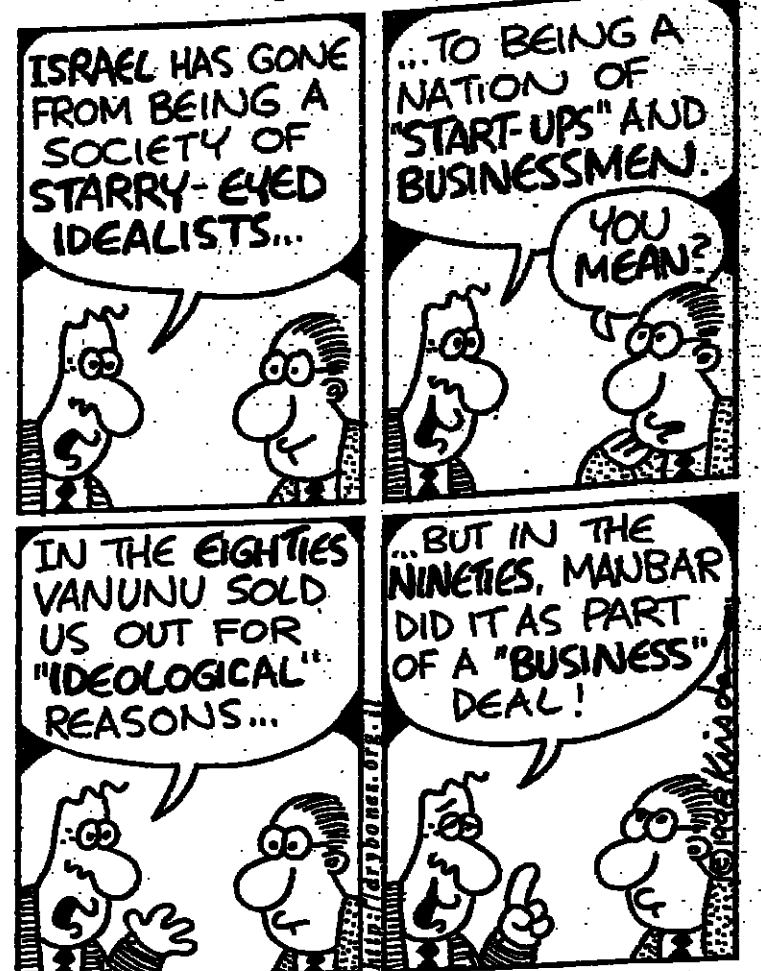
But he says some things don't change: A tiny Israel surrounded by a much larger enemy with many more people cannot afford to absorb a first blow.

Deterrence, he says, must be based on offensive, not defensive, capability. His strategy against the Arab missile and nonconventional threat is built primarily on a balanced long-range strike force that combines the most advanced aircraft and naval force, particularly submarines.

"One of the things that worries me is that among policymakers there is a certain belief that defense is stronger than offense," Tal said at a seminar held earlier this month. "That is, that we can best the enemy from defense positions."

"This is very dangerous. The Arabs can afford to remain in a defensive posture. We cannot afford this."

Dry Bones



GRAPEVINE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



Promoting coexistence (from left): Leah Rabin, Arabesque co-host Gil Sedan, BGU vice-president Zvi Stauber and TV co-host Shouhad Hamud.

IT takes a lot to shake the equanimity of Jerusalem Cinematheque founder and director Lia van Leer. But on the opening night of the 15th annual Jerusalem Film Festival, Assi Dayan succeeded, without any apparent effort. A brilliant filmmaker — though considerably lacking in social graces — Dayan, who revels in being the enfant terrible of Israel's movie industry, was given a lifetime achievement award. Called to the stage, Dayan told Mayor Ehud Olmert to tell his friend (the prime minister) to go to hell.

Try as she might, van Leer couldn't remain poker-faced. After all the effort that had gone into making the festival a success, Dayan all but buried it with one cruel barb, which immediately became the focus of media attention.

It wasn't an easy night for Olmert, either. Arriving 45 minutes late, he was booed long and loud, then twice more before the screening began. By contrast, his predecessor, Teddy Kolk, was cheered so enthusiastically that he had to ask the audience to stop. He asked forgiveness for introducing a political note, but said he wanted to remind everyone that it was the Cinematheque that introduced the Friday night screenings, now commonplace in Jerusalem.

FIVE years ago, when he set out to make his film *Hollywoodism*, based on Neal Gabler's best-selling book about Jews, movies and the American dream, Toronto-based producer and scriptwriter Simcha Jacobovici never imagined how difficult it would be to get any broadcasting company interested in it. They just didn't want to touch it, he recalled this week prior to the film's screening at the Jerusalem Film Festival, to which he had been invited for the third time.

Because of the sensitivity of the subject, one Jewish-owned company that would have liked to be involved refused to produce the film because it was "too Jewish" to tackle it; another company refused because it was "too Gentile."

Although Jewish moguls provided the foundation for *Hollywoodism*, observed Jacobovici, who came here with his wife, his kids, his mother and his in-laws, not a single street in Hollywood has been named after any of them.

WHEN fireworks lit up the Jaffa skies this week, it was not only to celebrate France's World Cup victory, but also Bastille Day. In fact, at the reception hosted by French ambassador Jean-Noel de Bouillane de Lacoste and his wife, Francoise, there was little

evidence of France's soccer field triumph till near the close of the National Day festivities, when a voice rang out over the microphone inviting the hundreds of guests milling about on the lawn to come and partake of *Le Gateau*.

It was almost a pity to cut the delicious confection, which featured a huge sugared Eiffel Tower in the middle of a frosted soccer field decorated with the French national colors and a brown soccer ball.

President Ezer Weizman and former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir left early, missing the crowd surging around the stairs to secure a piece of cake, recalling, as someone remarked, the recent crowd scenes on the Champs Elysees.

Diplomats representing the European Community got on the French bandwagon and adopted France's World Cup achievement as their own.

THERE was a surprisingly full house at the Van Leer auditorium for the screening of a documentary film about exiled Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, whose works are full of longing for the Galilee, where he was raised. The film was to have been followed by a panel discussion on Identity, Displacement, Immigration and Exile under the auspices of The Forum for Mediterranean Cultures. But long-winded chairman Yitzhak Livne left the five panelists with little time to say anything.

Four of them, residents of Mediterranean countries, touched on the problems of the immigrants in their countries, while British film critic Derek Malcolm noted that he was a Scots exile living in London.

"Nearly everyone in Britain is an exile," he commented. When he got married, he added, the people at the registry office were very happy "because we were the first couple married there in a period of three weeks who spoke English."

THOUGH lamenting the destruction of her husband's particular path to peace, Leah Rabin said she was cheered by progress made in interweaving Israel's life with that of its neighbors. Rabin was speaking at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, at the Berelson Prize awards ceremony. The prize, in memory of late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, is for the promotion of understanding between Jews and Arabs. The recipient this year was the television program *Arabesque*, whose co-hosts Shouhad Hamud and Gil Sedan were on hand to receive their well-deserved kudos.

ZICHRONI

Continued from Page 13

NAFTALI GUR-ARIE, an attorney who worked in Zichroni's office for three years between 1982-84, says that Zichroni's security connections work to his clients' advantage in the long run.

"A lawyer who is accepted by state security authorities is an advantage when it comes to cases

with very high confidentiality," Gur-Arie explains.

"When there is such a case like Kalmanovich or Manbar, the defense lawyer must be exposed to very sensitive security secrets. It is quite obvious the state will do anything to protect secrets. They know that if they deliver such files to Amnon, there will be no leaks out of his office."

"He has a dialogue with the authorities. In the course of these trials, there are things going on

both out in the open and under the table and an attorney needs to operate on all of these levels."

"Because he has this access to information, I believe that Zichroni, in such cases, is able to get better results for his clients than any other lawyer."

An unabashed Zichroni admirer, Gur-Arie describes him as "warm, supportive, emotionally generous. In short, he's a mensch."

He adds, "I worked with him

three and a half years, very very closely. He will always stand by the client and do what's best for them. He is very careful, very professional, and he knows the law very well."

Gur-Arie scoffs at insinuations by Yanai that Zichroni paid her ex-boyfriend Ziv Hen for his testimony or that Zichroni hired her to exploit her connections to Judge Strashnov.

"Amnon doesn't need a nice-looking girl to influence the judge, not with his experience and veteran status," he said. Gur-Arie is confident his former boss will weather the current storm.

"Amnon Zichroni knew more than anyone else precisely what

kind of minefield he was walking into. If he decided to do this, he did it with open eyes, and on solid ground based on hard evidence."

INDEED, ZICHRONI does seem confident.

After a long day of court appearances on Wednesday, he underwent a half-hour grilling on Israel Television.

Asked if he was worried that his reputation and career would suffer if his charges against Judge Strashnov proved false, Zichroni came close to smiling. "I'll tell you this: I believe that I'll be representing clients in courtrooms for many years to come."

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

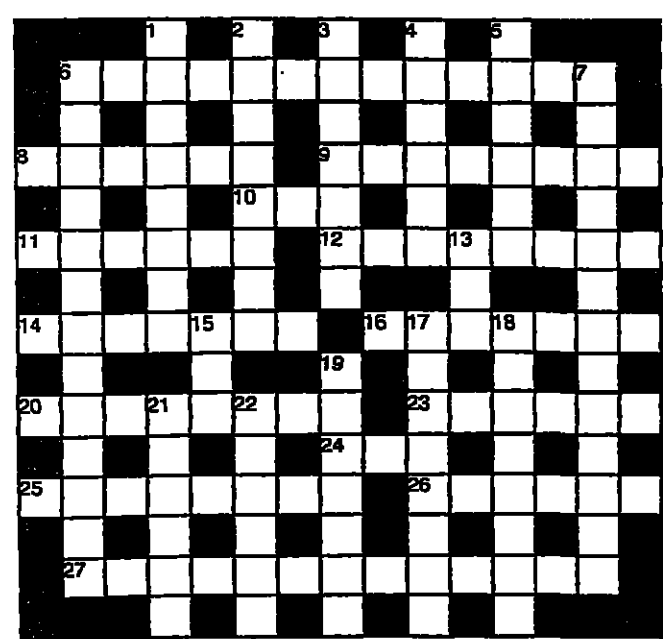
ACROSS

- 6 Ambassador, given a port, tips tossy-turvy (4,4,5)
- 8 Pole held firm—that brings him luck (6)
- 9 State where soldiers lead the people, perhaps (8)
- 10 Whoever hid my weeder? (3)
- 11 Band is second? Rubbish! (6)
- 12 Ban moral slippage as deviant (8)
- 14 Pulling up and stretching to see (7)
- 16 Lines on label showing how to behave when drinking? (3-4)
- 20 Flew into the Dutch capital to give speech (8)

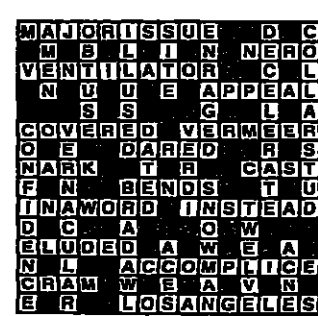
- 23 Anti-Philistine boy taking in a literary work (6)
- 24 Play part in work of government (3)
- 25 Letter—O? (8)
- 26 Elderly in damage from freeze (4,2)
- 27 Brave oneself to get sand in the mouth? (4,4,5)

DOWN

- 1 Threat of penalty contains trouble (8)
- 2 Line of Londoners, from other end of country? (8)
- 3 Refuge for one beaten by soldiers (7)
- 4 Make out in his music? (6)



SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Wreck, 4 Amend, 10 Numerical, 11 Theme, 12 Total, 13 Stealer, 14 Scene, 17 Hindu, 19 Abyss, 22 Role, 25 General, 27 Waste, 29 Nanny, 30 Veteran, 31 Ashen, 32 Think.
DOWN: 2 Remit, 3 Circled, 5 Mitre, 6 Needle, 7 Unite, 8 Class, 9 Pearl, 14 Teal, 16 Aura, 18 Innings, 20 Bewitch, 21 Agent, 23 Olive, 24 Meant, 26 Rhyme, 28 Siren.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Performing (7)
- 5 Combs wool (5)
- 8 Covered with creeper (5)
- 9 Narrate (7)
- 10 Flow out from (7)
- 11 Takes on board (5)
- 12 Garden scissors (6)
- 14 Crust of pie (6)
- 17 Manservant (5)
- 19 Beseech (7)
- 22 Perplex (3-4)
- 23 Female relation (5)
- 24 Submit (5)
- 25 Repeated (7)

DOWN

- 1 Coat (5)
- 2 Stir (7)
- 3 Country (5)
- 4 Flower plot (6)
- 5 Part of inner ear (7)
- 6 Globular (5)
- 7 Supply fully (7)
- 12 Number (7)
- 13 Re-roofed (7)
- 15 On that account (7)
- 16 Annoyer (6)
- 18 Old weapon (5)
- 20 Pick-me-up (5)
- 21 Step (5)

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Saturday, July 18
Jerusalem: (day) Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Avigdor, 670-8860; (evening) Center Pharm, Har Hotzvim, 586-8744. (day and evening) Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shualat, Shualat Road, 581-0105; Dar Alkawa, Harod's Gate, 628-2035; Beit Merkazim, Beit Merkazim, 628-2035; Beit Merkazim, Beit Merkazim, 628-2035; Beit Merkazim, Beit Merkazim, 628-2035.
Tel Aviv: Ben, 174 Ditzengoff, 522-2388; Pharm Ex Jaffa, 61 Yehuda Hayami, 682-2973.
Kiryat Ono: Niv Pharm Shevit, Shevit Center, Kiryat Ono, 844-3778.
Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (near Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mail, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES
TORA PORTION: Pinchas
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS in Is-
rael: 4 Lineas, Kfar Sava, P.O. 592.
Worship every Shabbat, in English, Rumanian, Russian, Hebrew, Spanish, Jerusalem, Eilat. 02-625-1547. Haifa, Tel Aviv 04-625-4228. Tel Aviv, Nazareth 060601-0021. Ashdod, Beersheba 02-625-1547.
JER-CHRISTIAN
REDEEMER CHURCH, Lutheran, Mursan Rd. Old City, Jerusalem. Sunday services: German 10:30 a.m. Tel. 02/6711,6281048.
RELIGIOUS SERVICES
JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH - The Baptist House Center, #4 Markis Street, Sunday: 10:45 a.m. Tel. 02-6255942.
KING OF KINGS Assembly, Sun. services 5 p.m. YMCA Auditorium, 28 King David St. For information call 02-561-0017.
PENTECOSTAL WORSHIP SERVICE, Mt. Zion Fellowship, Ft. Sal., Sun., 10:30 a.m., 7:30 p.m. Tel. 02-582-8994.
JERUSALEM
HEBREW UNION COLLEGE, 13 King David St. Shabbat morning service, 9:30 a.m.

WHERE TO GO
Notices in this feature, are charged at NIS 35.10 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 585.00 per line, including VAT per month.
WHERE TO GO
HEBREW UNIVERSITY. Tours of the Mount Scopus campus in English, daily Sun.-Thurs. 11 a.m. from Griffin Reception Centre, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4a, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 882819.
WHERE TO GO
HAIFA
WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-8374253.
WHERE TO GO
JERUSALEM
CONDUCTED TOURS
Tourists and Visitors, come and see the General Israel Orphan Home for Girls, Jerusalem. It's a beautiful and impressive modern building. Free guided tours weekdays, 9-12 Bus no. 14, 24, Kiryat Moshe, 6223291.

ART GUIDE
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ART GUIDE
HAIFA
THE REUBEN AND EDITH HECHT MUSEUM (Haifa University). Permanent exhibition: The People of Israel in Eretz Yisrael - Phonicians on the Northern Coast of Israel in the Biblical Period - Illness and Healing in Ancient Times - Impressionism and the Jewish School of Paris. Open Sun., Mon., Wed., Thurs. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Sat. 10-2 a.m. ADMISSION FREE.
ART GUIDE
JERUSALEM
Museums
OLD YISHUV COURT MUSEUM. Life in the Jewish community in the Old City, mid-19th century - World War II. 8 Or Haim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun.-Thurs. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
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Advertise your business in the next
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to be published on August 28.
Deadline for orders August 14
Contractors, painters, gardeners, plumbers, electricians, interior designers, retail furnishers:
Call Debbie Miller, advertising supplement coordinator, on 02-561-7654, 02-538-9155.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES
MORSHET YISRAEL - Conservative 4 Agnon, Dr. Avraham Feder, Rabbi. Mincha, 6:45 a.m. Daily Minyan 7 a.m.
TEL AVIV-CHRISTIAN
FRIENDSHIP HOUSE (The Redeemed Christian Church of God). Worship Service Saturdays 10:00 a.m., Sundays 7:00 p.m., Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. Venue - 30 Lavanda Street (3rd Floor), Tel Aviv. Tel. 050-946777.

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FRIENDSHIP HOUSE (The Redeemed Christian Church of God). Worship Service Saturdays 10:00 a.m., Sundays 7:00 p.m., Wednesdays 7:00 p.m. Venue - 30 Lavanda Street (3rd Floor), Tel Aviv. Tel. 050-946777.

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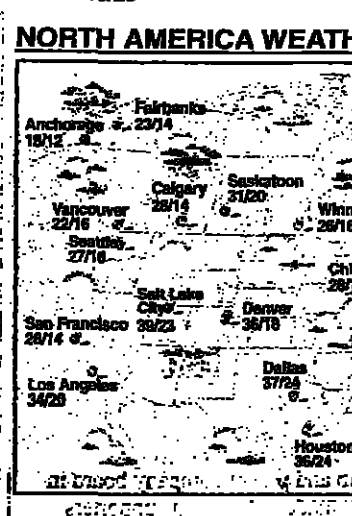
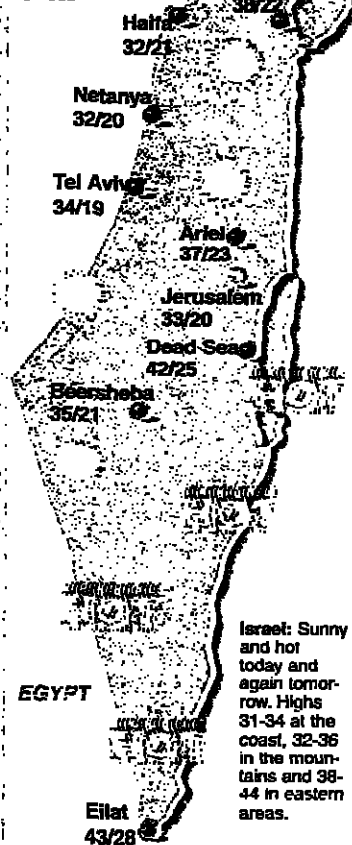
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AIR CANADA

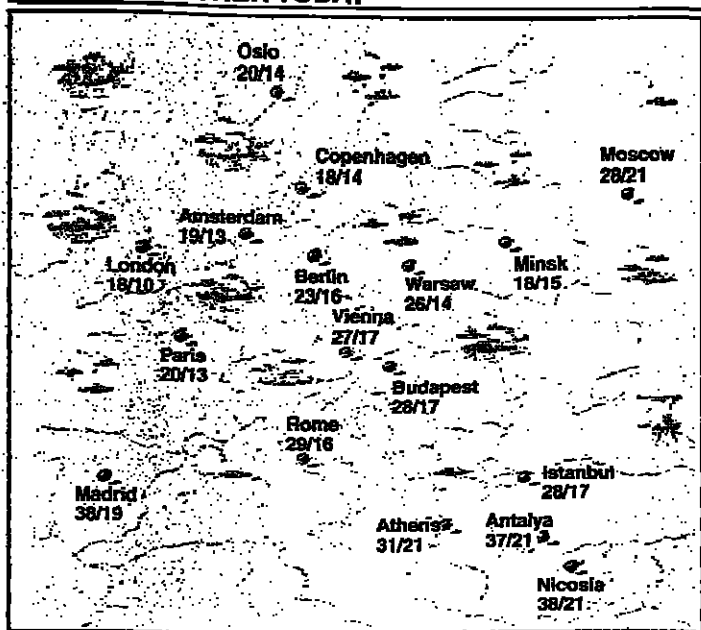
A noon meeting in L.A.
AIR CANADA will get you there in time
Lv-TLV 1:30 a.m. Arr-LA 11:30 a.m. same day

THE WEATHER

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EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today High/Low	Saturday High/Low	Sunday High/Low	Monday High/Low
Ariel	31/18	32/19	32/19	32/19
Beersheva	35/25	36/26	36/26	36/26
Dead Sea	42/10	43/11	43/11	43/11
Elad	33/23	34/24	34/24	34/24
Haifa	28/20	29/21	29/21	29/21
Jerusalem	30/20	31/21	31/21	31/21
Katrin	30/20	31/21	31/21	31/21
Netanya	30/20	31/21	31/21	31/21
Tel Aviv	30/20	31/21	31/21	31/21
Tiberias	30/20	31/21	31/21	31/21

ISRAELI CITIES

City	Today High/Low	Saturday High/Low	Sunday High/Low	Monday High/Low
Ariel	31/18	32/19	32/19	32/19
Beersheva	35/25	36/26	36/26	36/26
Dead Sea	42/10	43/11	43/11	43/11
Elad	33/23	34/24	34/24	34/24
Haifa	28/20	29/21	29/21	29/21
Jerusalem	30/20	31/21	31/21	31/21
Katrin	30/20	31/21	31/21	31/21
Netanya	30/20	31/21	31/21	31/21
Tel Aviv	30/20	31/21	31/21	31/21
Tiberias	30/20	31/21	31/21	31/21

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today High/Low	Saturday High/Low	Sunday High/Low	Monday High/Low
Amsterdam	16/10	17/11	17/11	17/11
Beijing	30/15	31/16	31/16	31/16
Berlin	23/17	24/18	24/18	24/18
Brussels	19/16	20/17	20/17	20/17
Cardiff	16/10	17/11	17/11	17/11
Chicago	23/17	24/18	24/18	24/18
Hong Kong	31/24	32/25	32/25	32/25
London	16/10	17/11	17/11	17/11
Los Angeles	30/15	31/16	31/16	31/16
Madrid	30/15	31/16	31/16	31/16
Moscow	23/17	24/18	24/18	24/18
New York	30/15	31/16	31/16	31/16
Paris	23/17	24/18	24/18	24/18
Prague	23/17	24/18	24/18	24/18
Rio de Janeiro	23/17	24/18	24/18	24/18
Rome	23/17	24/18	24/18	24/18
Sydney	16/10	17/11	17/11	17/11
Taipei	23/17	24/18	24/18	24/18
Toronto	23/17	24/18	24/18	24/18
Vancouver	23/17	24/18	24/18	24/18
Warsaw	23/17	24/18	24/18	24/18
Washington	23/17	24/18	24/18	24/18
Zurich	23/17	24/18	24/18	24/18

DWELLINGS Sharon Area

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Despite what you may have heard from a rival agency, Morrie, Carol & Barry are alive, well and working out of our new offices at 10 DAVID HAMELECH ST.

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Bargain 4 m apt, 2nd floor, very central, asking price \$170,000.
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DWELLINGS Sharon Area

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ZICHRON-YAAKOV, 8 ROOMS, 270 sq. m., unattached + pool. \$380,000. Tel. 06-639-6689. (17408)

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HERZLIYA-PITUAH SUPERB PENTHOUSE and apartment near sea, also villa. Tel. 03-695-5794, 050-216-882. (793790)

Kfar Shmaryahu, New villa, 700sq.m., dining room, separate units, hilltop, seaview, \$1,800,000. Owner 09-8584365, 09-8507883. No agents please.

DWELLINGS Haifa and North

RENTALS

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DWELLINGS Eilat and South

BEERSHEBA, VILLA, 5, 2 patios, garden, quiet, near University (Shikun Beit). Tel. 07-627-0267. (793533)

REALTY Jerusalem Area

BUSINESS PREMISES

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PLOT

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REALTY Dan Region

PLOTS

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BUSINESS OFFERS General

BUSINESS PREMISES

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Urgently required: Female legal Filipino caregivers - Experienced nannies (1 yr exp.) References essential + college grad/12th grade. Visa arranged - chance for new life.

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References and live-in. Driving license essential. Tel Aviv area. Fantastic position. Top Wages.

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EXCLUSIVE AU-PAIR AGENCY in North Tel Aviv seeking qualified, intelligent candidates, high salaries. Tel. 050-620-884. (11789)

Your mail can mean a lot to the needy

Receiving letters is one of the great pleasures of my work. Some of the letters are not so pleasurable because they are appeals from social workers for help for individuals and families who have fallen on hard times. But warm letters and contributions from readers and friends give me much joy and enthusiasm.

Recently, I received a letter from four little girls in New York, who, after seeing Israel's 50th anniversary parade, sent \$18 to buy "toys for the children".

Another supporter sends \$15 for each of the three funds at least 12 times a year.

Other welcome letters come from groups of people in bridge and scrabble clubs, Lions and Rotaries who "take the hat round" at the end of the meetings and send us the collection.

We even have a number of contributors who collect money from the neighbors in their condominiums or street.

As I write this list, the mail has just arrived and I'm about to open it. Please let there be plenty of surprises of nice fat checks.

Remember, no one ever got poor from giving charity. Send your checks to: **The Jerusalem Post Funds, P.O.B. 81, 91000 Jerusalem.**

Donors living in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits, can send their donations to: **Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 270 Lafayette St., Suite 505, New York, NY 10012.** Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

FORSAKE ME NOT

NIS 1,000 Anon., Mizpe Jericho. NIS 300 Anon., Petah Tikva. NIS 180 In memory of Batzava and Yona Topov, Sime and David Topov, Sara and Shoshana Matal, Chana Leah Norman, Esther S. Ring and Chayla and Shlomo Salenger. NIS 100 Anon., Haifa. NIS 72 In honor of the Steigler's 50th anniversary - Anon., Bet Herim. NIS 50 In memory of Yotli and Julius Wiseman - her family. NIS 18 Happy birthday Mildred Bloom (1.8.98) - CEE, Haifa. \$200 In memory of my wife, Bernadette - Nemessio Alday, Cleveland, OH. \$100 D. Griffin, Garden Grove, CA. \$50 In memory of Isaac J. Pomerantz on his 75th yahrtzeit - Ahrona and Milton Chirny. \$200 In memory of my mother's yahrtzeit in Tammuz (Rudolf and Lucy Bodlander, Alexandria, VA. In memory of the yahrtzeit of my beloved husband, Dr. Abraham E. Goldkorn - Irene Goldkorn, Carlsbad, NM. \$36 Matching gift made by the Heschel Foundation, New York, in the name of Josef Stern.

FUNDS

\$25 Mark Greiz, Westhampton Beach, NY. E.W. Helen and Woodham, Newport, AR. \$20 In memory of my mother, Fannie Barshy, Silver Spring, MD. \$15 F. Asper, Winnipeg, Canada. \$250 Dr. E. N. Gluck remembering with love and affection always - Marjorie, Emma and Richard, Aaron, Rachel, Ark and Joseph. \$350 Mr. and Mrs. Terence Miller, Markham, Canada. DFL200 Mrs. Whitlau-Hoffland, Holland.

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NIS 1,000 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Harris, Jm. NIS 300 In memory of my uncle, Allen J. Reisenfeld (Elyakim ben Zvi) - Avraham and Shelly Ben David, Jm. NIS 250 Anon., Jm. NIS 200 Dr. Paul and Dr. Shella Aceman, Bar Yochai. NIS 180 A. Nurik, Kochav Yeh. NIS 100 In loving memory of our darling Michael Shraga, God Rest Her Loving Soul, who left us eight years ago on June 28, 1990, sadly missed and always remembered - Mum, Yael and the boys. NIS 72 From "Smasher". NIS 34 To aid children - CEE, Haifa. \$100 In honor of Ami Flatt's graduation from Alva Hebrew Day School.

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Foreman to meet Holmes in 'waltz of grandfathers'

NEW YORK (Reuters) — They're grandfathers and between them they have been fighting for some 40 years. So maybe it's time George Foreman and Larry Holmes took a night off to slow dance and make a lot of money.

Odds are that's just what the two former champions will be doing on January 23, 1999, when they will meet in what promoters are calling "The Birthday Bash" in honor of Foreman's 50th birthday on January 10.

But the promoters from something called Boxing International L.L.C., are actually trying to foist off the Foreman-Holmes encounter as a meaningful battle between two excellent athletes who are the future of the sport.

If that's the future, it ain't pretty.

What is pretty for Holmes, though, is the money he's getting for participating. "You gotta be crazy to turn down \$4 million." And Foreman would be a lot crazier to turn down his estimated \$10 million for what will be a no-risk walkathon against Holmes.

Holmes, who held a version of the heavyweight title from 1978 to 1995, will be a mere 49 in November.

"Everyone buying the fight on pay-per view will get a senior citizen discount," quipped Bert Sugar, editor of *The Fight Game* magazine.

Foreman, a former two-time heavyweight champion of the world, was at his all-galaxy promotional best at the news conference at the opulent Palace Hotel on Madison Avenue, where there were more beefy, neck-swiveling men wearing capes than at a Secret Service convention.

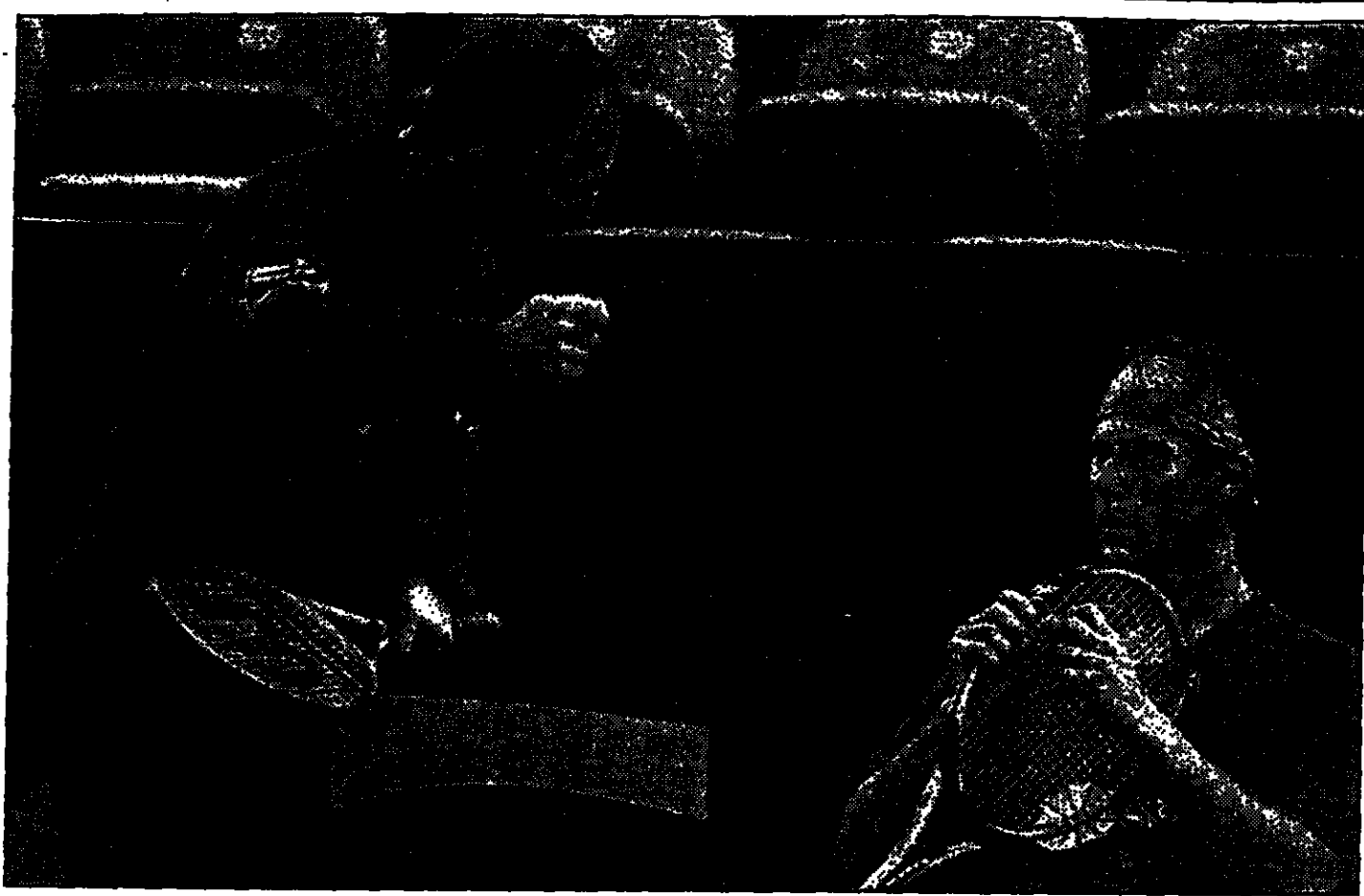
"This fight will lead the nation into the next millennium," said Foreman. Foreman, who last won the heavyweight title with a stunning 10th-round knockout of Michael Moorer in 1994, then went on to plug his new "fat-free, fusion" grilling machine, which he will be selling on television in August.

Holmes, of course, got into the act, pushing a book about his life, entitled *Against All Odds*. He said he had read parts of it.

Foreman (76-5) used the familiar refrain that he had employed when he came back to boxing in 1987 after a 10-year layoff.

Foreman, who vowed to come in between 227 and 235 pounds for Holmes (66-6), said he wants to show people that age is no barrier to accomplishment.

"Are we really alive? I do this at 50 then I can move up (to do other things)," he said. "Can you dream... can you still sweat talk. It's a chance for all of us to feel better about ourselves."



Davis Cup pep talk

Swedish Davis Cup captain Karl-Axel Hagskog (left) talks strategy to Niklas Kulti ahead of the quarter-final tie against Germany which begins today in Hamburg. The three other quarter-final ties are: Italy v. Zimbabwe in Prato, Spain v. Switzerland in La Coruna and the US v. Belgium in Indianapolis.

Reds win 10th straight

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Mark McGwire's throwing error in the 11th inning gave visiting Cincinnati its 10th straight victory.

The Reds came from behind in all three games of the series, overcoming a 5-0 deficit Monday and a 4-2 margin Tuesday. They trailed 2-0 Wednesday before tying it in the eighth on an RBI single by pinch-hitter Melvin Nieves, then won on McGwire's sixth error of the season.

The Reds' winning streak is their longest since a 10-game run in July 1975. The club record is 12 in a row in 1957 and 1939.

Cincinnati has won 15 of 16, its best sustained stretch since an identical run in 1975 as the Big Red Machine. The Reds also have won 10 in a row on the road.

Giants 5, Dodgers 3
In Los Angeles, the Bulldog showed he's still got some bite in a triumphant return to Dodger Stadium.

Orel Hershiser, a star for 12 years with the Dodgers before leaving after the 1994 season, pitched six strong innings for visiting San Francisco.

Hershiser, nicknamed "Bulldog" by former Los Angeles manager Tommy Lasorda, was pitching at Dodger Stadium for a team other than the Dodgers for the first time in his career. He played for Los Angeles from 1983-94, and ranks 10th on the franchise's victory list with 134 wins.

The 39-year-old Hershiser (8-7)

pitched on three days' rest as a replacement for left-hander Shawn Estes, missing a turn due to tenderness in his pitching shoulder.

He allowed five hits and three runs — two earned — while walking two and striking out four before being removed for a pinch-hitter.

Braves 12, Mets 1
Andres Galaraga hit a pair of long home runs, driving in five runs as the visiting Atlanta Braves pounded the home team Ryan Klesko also homered for Atlanta as the Braves battered five Mets pitchers for 16 hits.

Denny Neagle (10-7) allowed four hits through six innings, winning for the second time since June 21. He struck out three and walked three.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Mariners 4, Twins 1

In Seattle, Edgar Martinez and Dan Wilson homered in the sixth inning and Jamie Moyer pitched four-hit ball for eight innings to lead Seattle.

Moyer (6-7) won for the third time in four decisions, as the last-place Mariners won for the fifth time in seven games since the All-Star break. Mike Timlin pitched the ninth for his fourth save.

Ken Griffey Jr. was 0-for-4 and remained one behind Mark McGwire's major league-leading 40 homers.

LaTroy Hawkins (6-8) took the loss.

Royals 5, Athletics 1

In Oakland, California, Jose Rosado matched a career-high with

nine strikeouts and Jeff King homered for Kansas City.

Rosado (4-7) allowed one run and two hits — both by Rickey Henderson — in 6 1/3 innings.

Tom Candiotti (5-11) lost for the seventh time in his last eight decisions, giving up three runs and seven hits in seven innings.

Orioles 14, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Texas, Baltimore extended its winning streak to seven games and won for the first time on the road in 11.

Mike Bordick and Lenny Webster both went 3-for-5 and drove in two runs, and Rafael Palmeiro homered for the Orioles.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	42	12	.778	—
New York	46	41	.528	13 1/2
Philadelphia	47	44	.516	13 1/2
Montreal	38	55	.409	23 1/2
Florida	36	58	.383	26

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	55	38	.591	—
Chicago	51	43	.543	4 1/2
Milwaukee	45	49	.479	10 1/2
Cincinnati	47	50	.484	11
St. Louis	43	59	.421	12 1/2
Pittsburgh	42	52	.447	13 1/2

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Diego	41	34	.544	—
San Francisco	53	42	.558	8
Los Angeles	47	47	.500	13 1/2
Colorado	41	54	.432	20
Arizona	31	62	.333	29

Wednesday's NL games: Atlanta 12, N.Y. Mets 1; Milwaukee 3, Philadelphia 2; Montreal 9, Florida 6; Pittsburgh 3, Chicago Cubs 6; San Francisco 5, Los Angeles 3; Cincinnati 4, St. Louis 2; Boston 1, Cleveland 0; N.Y. Yankees 11, Detroit 0; Baltimore 14, Texas 3; Seattle 4, Minnesota 1; Kansas City 5, Oakland 1.

Houllier teams up with Evans at Liverpool

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) — Frenchman Gerard Houllier predicted yesterday that he and Roy Evans would combine their "mutual expertise" to take Liverpool back to the forefront of world football.

Houllier, fresh from seeing out his contract as technical director of World Cup winners France, was confirmed as joint team manager with Evans at the English premier league club.

The move is likely to give rise to more speculation surrounding Evans' job security, but Houllier said: "I took the job on the condition that Roy Evans stay on as joint manager and that we be allowed to work together."

"It is an excellent opportunity for us both, and I believe with our mutual respect and expertise, we can fulfil

the expectations surrounding this club from the players, the fans, from everyone."

"There will be shared responsibility and it might take time to get things right, but we will make the best of it."

Evans said: "The titles of joint manager will cause concern for some and we know there will be problems we have to iron out, but I am looking forward to the challenge and I don't think we have anything to fear."

"Gerard and I will complement each other because we have the same philosophy about the way the game should be played."

"I obviously have knowledge of the traditions at Liverpool, like the 'boot-room mentality,' whereas Gerard can bring his expertise on European and world football to the club."

SPORTS

in brief

Shelbourne-Rangers clash moved to Tranmere

LONDON (Reuters) — Irish club Shelbourne's UEFA Cup match against Scottish side Rangers has been switched to English first division Tranmere's ground because of the threat of violence associated with the current unrest in Northern Ireland.

The first qualifying round first leg match will now take place at Tranmere's 16,700-capacity Prenton Park next Wednesday.

The two clubs, the British embassy in Dublin and the Republic of Ireland Football Association agreed on Wednesday that the match would not take place in the Irish capital.

Dublin-based Shelbourne were concerned that events across the border at Drumcree, where a banned march by the Orange Order has led to civil unrest by the Protestant loyalist community, could affect the match.

Rangers have a large following among Northern Ireland's Protestants and there was trouble when the club last played in Dublin in 1984. Supporters rioted during a match with Bohemians and fought with police.

Hiddink to coach Real Madrid

MADRID (Reuters) — Dutch World Cup coach Guus Hiddink has signed a two-year deal with European Cup winners Real Madrid, the Spanish club said yesterday.

Hiddink becomes the sixth coach to serve under Real Madrid President Lorenzo Sanz since the real estate and construction magnate took over the presidency of the club in November 1995.

Former Borussia Dortmund coach Nevio Scala had appeared to be the favorite to take over at Real following the departure of Jose Antonio Camacho a week ago.

The Italian coach came to the Spanish capital on Tuesday for talks with Sanz and club directors.

But Scala turned down the European Cup winners on Wednesday, saying he wanted a year's sabbatical from soccer.

Four British fans found guilty of violence

MARSEILLE (Reuters) — Four British soccer fans were found guilty yesterday of violence during the World Cup match between England and Tunisia last month and sentenced to jail terms ranging from 40 days to two months, a court source said.

The source identified the men as salesman Steven Povel, 25, postal worker Alan Libbani, 28, unemployed Shane Radford, 22 and Martin Ken, 39, manager of a credit institution.

The four men pleaded guilty to throwing beer bottles at police officers near the stadium. But they retracted these confessions during the trial.

The men have already served most of their time, as they have been in jail in Marseille since June 15 when hooligans ran amok on the port city's streets and beaches during and after the match.

Three are expected to leave France by the end of the week while the fourth, with the heaviest sentence, will be freed towards the end of the month. All four are banned from entering France for one year.

Newcastle Utd. still to settle board membership

LONDON (Reuters) — Newcastle United yesterday appointed businessman and lifelong fan Denis Cassidy as company chairman but said it had not yet resolved the composition of the football club's board. Cassidy replaces Terence Harrison, who resigned in May saying he believed it was time for a new team.

There had been speculation that Douglas Hall and Freddy Shepherd, who resigned from the club and parent company board in March over disparaging remarks they made about team supporters and local women, would return.

Hall is the son of Sir John Hall, the former chairman of the football club who resigned in June after returning for a brief stint to calm troubled waters. Shepherd was previously chairman of the club.

A statement made no reference to the pair, who between them control some two thirds of the company's shares. However, Cassidy did not rule out their return to the premier league club's board. He said the issue would be addressed "very quickly" but would not say if it would be settled before the league season kicks off on August 15.

Everton snap up Perugia defender Materazzi

LIVERPOOL (Reuters) — Everton have completed the signing of defender Marco Materazzi from Italian side Perugia for £2.8 million. The 24-year-old Italian is the first signing by the premier league club's new boss Walter Smith.

The club did not give details of the player's contract but Materazzi is believed to have signed a four-year deal with the Merseysiders.

Coventry sell Moldovan to Fenerbahce

COVENTRY (Reuters) — Coventry City have sold Romanian World Cup striker Viorel Moldovan to Turkish club Fenerbahce for a club record £4 million.

Moldovan had only been at Highfield Road for six months following his £3.25 million move from Swiss side Grasshoppers in January. He was unable to win a regular place in the English premier league club's attack ahead of Dion Dublin and Darren Huckerby, scoring two goals in only seven starts before being linked up with the Romanian World Cup squad before the end of the season.

But he enhanced his reputation during France '98 by scoring twice in the World Cup finals, including Romania's first goal in their 2-1 win over England.

Collymore loses sponsorship deal

BIRMINGHAM (AP) — Sportswear company Diadora has terminated its £2.5 million sponsorship contract with troubled Aston Villa soccer star Stan Collymore.

The former England international was widely condemned after attacking his Swedish-born television presenter girlfriend Ulrika Jonsson in a Paris bar on the eve of the opening game of the World Cup.

Diadora UK released a statement yesterday saying Collymore had not complied with certain contractual obligations and left the company with no alternative but to terminate the deal immediately.

Aussie cricket umpire charged with 26 offences

HOBART (Reuters) — Australia's most experienced international cricket umpire Steve Randall was charged with 26 counts of sexual abuse when he appeared in a Tasmanian court yesterday.

The 42-year-old was charged with 25 counts of indecent assault and one of having sexual intercourse with a person under the age of 17. Randall pleaded not guilty to all the charges. He was released on bail and ordered to reappear at the Hobart Magistrates Court in September.

Randall was originally charged with 11 offences of sexual assault in 1992 when he appeared in court in May.

But the original charges were withdrawn and replaced with 26 other charges when he reappeared yesterday.

A veteran of 36 Tests, Randall has been stood down from all international duties until the matter is resolved by the courts.

He has also been suspended by the Tasmanian Education department where he works as a school teacher.

Australian Associated Press reported that the charges related to incidents between 1979 and 1993.

Apologetic Marv Albert rehired as sportscaster with MSG

NEW YORK (AP) — An apologetic Marv Albert will get his second chance at the same place he got his first.

A broadcasting career that took Albert to the top of his profession before unraveling in an embarrassing sex-scandal 10 months ago began when he called New York Knicks and Rangers games on the radio in the 1960s.

On Wednesday, the MSG Network said it would rehire Albert to do radio play-by-play of Knicks games and anchor a nightly sports show on television.

"We consider Marv part of the family and loyalty is important to us," said Dave Checketts, president and CEO of Madison Square Garden.

It was a far more contrite Albert who sat before a microphone at a news conference, saying he was a changed man because of time off and 10 months of therapy.

Albert resigned from MSG in September and was

fired by NBC after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor assault charge. He was accused of throwing his former girlfriend, Vanessa Perabach, on a bed in a Virginia hotel room in February 1997, biting her on the back more than a dozen times and forcing her to perform oral sex.

After stopping his lurid trial in September to plead guilty to assault and battery, Albert was spared jail time if he stayed out of trouble for a year.

Albert said he would continue his therapy and wouldn't be so work-obsessed, which got him in trouble in the first place. "My lifestyle and my hectic schedule did not allow me to call a timeout," he said.

He'll call about half the Knicks games on the radio, mostly home games. He will also anchor "MSG Sports Desk," a half-hour rundown on New York City sports, beginning September 14. That job harkens back to his days as sports anchor on WNBC-TV in New York from 1975 to 1987.

Albert, 50, said he was rehired by MSG because

of his "mutual expertise" to take Liverpool back to the forefront of world football.

Houllier, fresh from seeing out his contract as technical director of World Cup winners France, was confirmed as joint team manager with Evans at the English premier league club.

The move is likely to give rise to more speculation surrounding Evans' job security, but Houllier said: "I took the job on the condition that Roy Evans stay on as joint manager and that we be allowed to work together."

"It is an excellent opportunity for us both, and I believe with our mutual respect and expertise, we can fulfil

Novotna still basking in Wimbledon glory

MAHWAH, New Jersey (Reuters) — Nearly two weeks later, Jana Novotna is still basking in the glory her Wimbledon success on clay in Prague.

Novotna is enjoying her celebrity status more than the label she was given with five years ago — a "choker" after her Wimbledon collapse last year.

Novotna, 29, said she does not expect to be a one-time Grand Slam champion.

Novotna said she will win more

titles, said Novotna, who lifted her winning streak to 16 matches in her post-Wimbledon success on clay in Prague.

"I don't want to put pressure on myself and talk about how many I can win but I feel it could happen if I could go with the same confidence in my game and with the same enjoyment."

When I won at Wimbledon, I felt relieved, more satisfied in my career than I could ever ask for. The world's second-ranked player is reaping the rewards of her storybook success not just in her bankroll but also in the recognition she gets now.

"People know that I'm pretty wealthy," said Novotna, whose success this year have moved her over the \$9 million career earning level.

"You can imagine that winning such a tournament like Wimbledon, my value goes up. There are bonuses for everything (from sponsors)." She will probably be playing more exhibitions like the \$125,000 A&P Classic here in Mahwah, New

Jersey, in which she is reported to be receiving a \$100,000 guarantee for playing only three matches if she reaches Sunday's final.

"I'm recognized more, stopped more often on the street for autographs," said Novotna. "People still come up to me and congratulate me for my victory at Wimbledon. These ordinary people got so emotionally involved in the match, they were rooting for me. I'm glad that I was able to win for myself and for all those who supported me."

She feels she has finally eradicated the "choker" label she was tamed with after the 1993 Wimbledon final in which she came within a point of a 5-1 lead in the third set over Graf.

"I don't think it's there anymore," she said. "From my perspective, I'm a new Jana. In the beginning it was painful listening to being called a choker, but I got used to it. I feel that it made me stronger, tougher and a better person." Novotna reiterated her post-Wimbledon comments that it takes not only consistent play but a

bit of luck to win the game's most coveted title. Her luck in her third Wimbledon final, Novotna said, was that Graf, her nemesis, had been eliminated by Natasha Zvereva in the third round.

"Don't you think it ironic that I won two major titles, the Chase Championships in New York and Wimbledon with her not around?" Graf missed the season-ending event, sometimes called a "fifth major," in 1997 when the German was still recovering from knee surgery.

"I strongly believe that if Graf had won against Zvereva she would have made it to the final. Then who knows what would have happened? With my style of play, it has always been tough to beat her." Novotna actually grabbed a second Wimbledon title this year — the doubles she won with Martina Hingis the day after her singles triumph — and she did it after a little too much celebrating.

"Yes," she replied when asked if she had a hangover. "I celebrated the

night after winning the singles and that (the doubles) didn't start till about 9:30 p.m. Champagne? Maybe a few other types of drinks. We had success (in doubles) so maybe I should do it more often."

Novotna feels she has a few years left to do battle with the young breed headed by Hingis, Anna Kournikova, Mirjana Lucic and the Williams sisters, Venus and Serena.

"As long as I am fit enough and good enough I plan to continue competing with the youngsters," Novotna said.

Although her coach Hana Mandlikova had lashed out at newcomers — except Hingis — who talked about taking the world No. 1 ranking despite never having won a single major title, Novotna was more sympathetic.

"The newcomers feel very confident and I don't see anything wrong with their behavior. They are hungry to be the best. They can say what they want and I'll do my business on the court."

WINNING CARDS
Last night's winning cards for the daily chance drawing

10	A	10
10	A	8

Inside

Novotna basks in Wimbledon success

Page 23

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Soccer league reforms shelved

By ORI LEWIS

The planned reform of professional league soccer in Israel has been put on hold following the sudden refusal of the Sportoto to come up with the funds required to implement the changes.

The plan was for the current two 16-team leagues to eventually be turned into three 12-team leagues in the season after next. Sportoto chairman Roni Bar-On was not forthcoming in his reasons for the sudden turnaround, Israel Football Association boss Ya'acov Erel said yesterday.

In other news, Maccabi Haifa's international striker Alon Mizrahi yesterday sealed a two-year contract with the club, ensuring that he will be available for the Cup Winners' Cup ties with Glentoran of Northern Ireland next month.

Elisha Levy has taken over as coach of Ironi Rishon LeZion after the firing of Eyal Lahman in mid-week.

SOUTHPORT, England (Reuters) - Tiger Woods took a determined step towards the second major title of his career by shooting a 65 at the British Open yesterday to share the first round lead with compatriot John Huston.

Though he wasted a chance to take the outright lead by bogeying Royal Birkdale's 18th, Woods was pleased with a five-under-par round which gave him a one shot lead over Zimbabwe's Nick Price and two more Americans - Fred Couples and Loren Roberts.

The 22-year-old world No. 1, who won last year's Masters by a record 12 shots, played a controlled round and putted well for seven birdies. Four of them coming on putts of between 10 and 30 feet.

In conditions much kinder than on the windy practice days, Woods dropped two shots, at the 183-yard 12th where he hit over the green and then missed a three-foot putt, and at the last where he again missed the green and saw his saving eight footer lip out.

"I played very well today. I drove the ball very well and made a lot of good putts," he said. He added that a week of relaxing in Ireland, playing golf and fishing, had left him well-prepared for Birkdale's 7,018-yard challenge.

Huston is playing courtesy of an unusual magnet therapy to overcome chronic bursitis in his right shoulder and tendinitis in his left wrist that had caused him to plummet down the rank-



READY TO ROAR - Tiger Woods blasts a tee shot down the fairway during his first round at the British Open golf championship at Royal Birkdale yesterday.

ings in 1997. But the treatment has seen a turnaround in form this year and he was at his best yesterday.

He parred the first nine holes, then shot three birdies in succession and had an eagle-birdie finish to cap his round. He had one dropped shot at the 14th.

Behind the trio on 66 were five players on 67 including PGA champion Davis Love and Vijay Singh of Fiji.

Last year's joint runner-up, Jesper Parnevik of Sweden, was

in a large group on 68 with other big names scattered down the scoreboard.

Several of them shot 72 including the Masters and US Open champions, Mark O'Meara and Lee Janzen, along with two-times US Open champion Ernie Els.

Defending champion Justin Leonard was back on 73 but another of the young American favorites, David Duval, managed a level-par 70.

Britain's two main hopes, Lee

Westwood and Colin Montgomerie, shot 71 and 73 respectively with Westwood feeling he was still very much in it and Montgomerie fearing he might miss the cut for the fifth time in seven years. Nick Faldo had a 72.

"As soon as the putts start going in I think I will be making a move in the right direction," Westwood said.

Also on 73 were five-times champion Tom Watson, triple winner Seve Ballesteros and

John Daly, winner in 1995. Tom Lehman, the 1996 champion, made a last-minute decision to play despite injuring a shoulder while roughhousing with his children at a local fair on Tuesday. He shot 71.

Woods, who has won nine titles in less than two years as a professional, felt he is still developing.

"It is just learning how to play golf, an evolution process," he said. "I'm still learning to fight the ball, learning a lot of different shots. Overall, I'm very pleased with my progress."

Huston, who adds to his therapy by wearing magnetic insoles in his shoes, said he did not know why the treatment worked.

"They say it increases the blood circulation but I don't know if there is any proof. It certainly leaves you feeling better," said the 37-year-old Floridian.

"Last year I would wake up not wanting to go to the golf course. It showed," he said.

After a decade of high placings on the US Tour, he dropped down to 141st on the money list.

This year, helped by victory in the Hawaiian Open in which he was a US Tour record 28 under par, he is ninth.

No matter who contends this week, the eighth Open held in this town will mark the passing of an era.

Jack Nicklaus made sure of that when he announced earlier this month that he would skip Birkdale, ending his remarkable streak of major tournaments at 146.

Unusual hat-trick for Sussex's Lewry

LONDON (Reuters) - Sussex left-arm swing bowler Jason Lewry completed an unusual hat-trick in the English county championship yesterday.

He had taken the wicket of Michael Smith, another left-arm medium pacer and a rival for an England place, with the last ball of Gloucestershire's first innings and went on to snatch the wickets of Nick Trainor and Dominic Hewson with the first two balls of the second.

But Sussex lost the match at Cheltenham and unfashionable Gloucester headed towards the top of the county championship with their fifth win of the season. They beat Sussex by seven wickets and rose from sixth place to third.

Asked why there were so many crashes in the race, Cipollini said it had always been like that in the world's top event.

"The reason is the Tour de France. Everybody wants to be at the finish and even third place is considered a good result for riders. The Tour means always more - more falls too," he said.

Three riders, Frenchman Thierry Gouvenou, Dutchman Aart Vierhouten and Italian Fabio Roscioli, tried to prevent the sprinters from stealing the show by breaking away after Loudun, but they too fell on the roads of Touraine, made slippery by constant drizzle. They were caught with 15 kilometers left.

Riders in the Festina team started the long stage in Cholet without team director Bruno Roussel, who was still being held for questioning at the police headquarters when the field left for Chateauroux.

Roussel was suspended by the International Cycling Union (UCI) for failing to send the sport's ruling body a report on the doping case currently rocking the Tour in time.

Roussel and two others were held for questioning following the arrest last week of Festina massager Willy Voet who was carrying hundreds of doping products in a team car. Voet is currently jailed in Lille.

Today's sixth stage takes the riders from La Châtre to Brievre over 204.5 kilometers.

Cipollini ends Tour misery with stage victory

CHATEAUXROUX, France (Reuters) - Sprint specialist Mario Cipollini ended his Tour de France misery by winning the 228.5-kilometer fifth stage in style yesterday.

The Italian, with the playboy looks of German Erik Zabel and Frenchman Christophe Mengin, snatched his first stage win of this Tour - Australian Stuart O'Grady kept his overall lead.

Cipollini's impressive surge in the last 150 meters after Zabel had led the way in the first sprint made up for the Italian's two crashes earlier in the Tour.

"I'm not completely satisfied with this win because I think I was capable of winning many more stages in this Tour given my condition," said the 24-year-old Italian, who fell in Loudun in the first stage and again in Cholet on Wednesday.

O'Grady also fell shortly before the first intermediate sprint of the day in Loudun, after 80 kilometers, and finished the stage with bruises on his right knee.

"It was very hard and very dangerous because of the rain," said the 24-year-old Australian, who leads American George Hincapie by seven seconds overall.

There was another spectacular fall at the finish when Italian Silvio Martinello crashed violently to the tarmac and was unable to finish.

The crash occurred just after Cipollini launched his decisive moves, surging behind Zabel and overhauling him shortly before the line in five hours, 18 minutes and 49 seconds.

"Zabel led the way but I found an opening and went for it."

It shows how strong I am this year," said Cipollini, who has now won seven stages on the Tour and 25 in either the Tour, the Italian Giro or the (Spanish) Vuelta.

"Hopefully, the hard luck is over now," added the man nicknamed Super Mario.

Asked why there were so many crashes in the race, Cipollini said it had always been like that in the world's top event.

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10.95	100g	100g	100g	100g	100g
10.95	100g	100g	100g	100g	100g
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10.95	100g	100g	100g	100g	100g

4.99	100g	100g	100g	100g	100g
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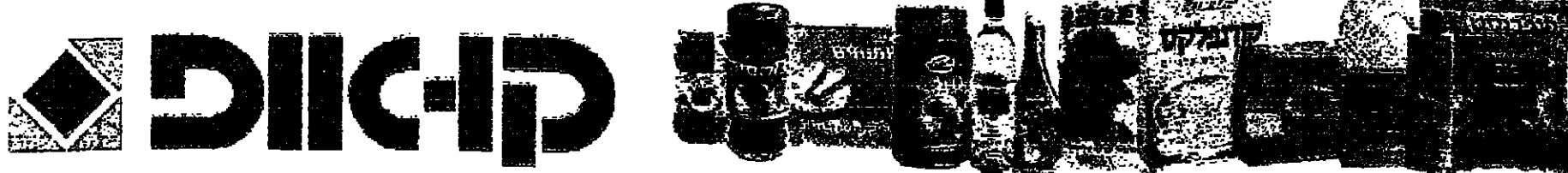
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